Prosecution: Witness in Sun's case has no visa. PAGE 5
Man allegedly rapes ex-girlfriend. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 243

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY DECEMBER 7, 2017 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

Search for man enters 3rd day

» Victim was taking pictures on 'tabletop' when rogue wave pulled him out to sea

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Search and rescue operations have been ongoing since Tuesday afternoon for a dive shop employee who was hit by a huge wave and dragged into rough waters at the secluded Hidden Beach in Talafofo.

Acting police spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong identified the victim yesterday as Kil Jun Min, a 35-year-old Korean national.

Tarkong said that Min is employed at a local dive shop and is described as about 5'9" tall and weighed about

See SEARCH on Page 4

Rough waters surround the famous "tabletop" at the secluded Hidden Beach in Talafofo. Kil Jun Min, a local dive shop employee, was taking photos on the tabletop when a wave struck him and pulled him out to sea last Tuesday afternoon. The search for Min is now on its third day today, Thursday.

DEREK GERSONDE

IMPERIAL RECEPTION
CNMI government officials, along with Japanese Consul to the Commonwealth Kinji Shinoda, fourth from left, break the sake in celebration of Japanese Emperor Akihito's 84th birthday yesterday at the Grandvrio Resort Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

'We did not sleep on this'

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
Tinian leaders rally behind CW program extension.
PAGE 2

This was the gist of the message of Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. chair Alex Sablan on the common misconception that the CNMI business community is only just beginning to do something about the plight of its foreign workforce.

Sablan

"There is a general impression throughout the community that it has taken this long for somebody to do something. Questions like 'why only now? Why did we wait nine years?'" he said. "We did not. We did not sleep on this."

See WE DID on Page 4

'Remind ourselves of where we were 10 years ago'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Torres urges signing of CW-1 petition

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is soliciting the public's support to extend the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program beyond 2019 by asking everyone to sign the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.'s petition endorsing the extension.

With U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

See REMIND on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Over 750 high school seniors participates in NMC's Start Smart seminar.
PAGE 16

ENVIRONMENT
There's only one tree to gather around in Greenwood this Christmas season.
PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE
His lawyers insist that Trump is too busy to face one woman's defamation lawsuit.
PAGE 20

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Members of the Tinian leadership state their support of the CW-1 extension during a press conference led by Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas. Members include Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), far left, San Nicolas, second left, Tinian Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), center, Sen. Francisco Borja (R-Tinian), second right, and Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), far right. ERWIN ENCINARES

Local

Tinian leaders rally behind CW program extension

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian leadership has expressed a united stance in having the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program extended past its 2019 expiration, saying it will ensure the growth and development of Tinian and the rest of the CNMI.

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), and Sens. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), and Francisco Borja (R-Tinian) voiced their support for the CW-1 program extension in the wake of the House of Representatives' passage of a joint resolution supporting the same.

House Joint Resolution 20-07 supports Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the CNMI private sector's endeavors in calling for amendments to U.S. Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which created the CW-1 program.

Joined by Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. member Viola Alepuyo, the Tinian leadership read a statement on Tuesday, saying that, even at current cap levels, Tinian continues to "experience hardship in competing with big businesses on Saipan for skilled workers for our development projects."

"It is important to note that without the CW-1 program, it's greatly impacting [developers interested in Tinian] in moving forward," the statement added.

Tinian leaders stressed that there are currently three developers interested in setting up businesses on Tinian: Bridge Investment Group USA, Alter City Group, and Tinian Entertainment Corp. All three are looking to set up a casino on Tinian and have already secured their licenses from the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

To put the matter in perspective, during the eight-month construction of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Tinian's former largest revenue generator during the late 1990s to early 2000s, Tinian leadership members recall that roughly 1,500 workers were needed to build the hotel-casino, while 1,300 were needed for operation.

Altogether, Tinian has an estimated population of about 3,000, including the elderly, children, and residents who are unable to work.

San Nicolas pointed out that, even if all U.S.-qualified workers on Tinian were to be employed, it would still not be enough to meet the three developers' workforce needs.

"I think we all agree that one day, we will have the capacity for local, trained, U.S.-eligible workers that will fill all the position required for there to be a viable casino or service-based industry in the Commonwealth, especially on Tinian, but we are not there yet," he said, adding that both Tinian and Rota depend on CW-1 workers as both islands are on the "verge of development."

"For [the CW-1 program] to expire in 2019 would really mean [both] small and big businesses will not be able to fill these positions that is required for them to continue the services they provide," he added.

The Tinian leadership recognized that continuing the CW-1 program is the best for all of the CNMI.

In response to those who support letting the CW-1 program expire, Hofschneider said the Legislature has been always supported the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Northern Marianas College, Public School System, and other workforce development facilities.

"…All of them are onboard right now in terms of developing the workforce that we need here—whether it be for the hospitality industry or any other industry that is able to sustain our economy here. Having done that, we still need the continuity of the program itself to build that [workforce] capacity. At this juncture right now, we are not quite there yet," he said.

"We are a growing economy; we are barely 40 years old," he said, adding that several local and federal policies have affected the growth of the economy within the time span. "It is unfortunate that the [CW-1 slots] have been [reduced by] 3,000," especially at this stage of the economy when investors and developers are interested in the CNMI.

"…We continue to meet our obligations to our retirees, raise salaries of our civil servants, and pay age-old obligations that have been on the books for many years. To continue and sustain this growth and development, and to continue to meet our obligations, we need a steady supply of workers," Aldan added.

"[Tinian has] many investors [with] serious inter-

See TINIAN on Page 4

Sugar King's grandson gives back

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The grandson of Haruji Matsue, historically referred to as Saipan's sugar king, has donated to the CNMI oil paintings that depict pre-war images of Saipan.

Yesterday, the Sugar King Foundation, in conjunction with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, unveiled the 12 paintings of Eiji Itakura for display at the library before they are housed permanently at the CNMI Museum.

Itakura is an amateur artist who was born on Saipan 84 years ago and was raised during the Sugar King era. Itakura vividly remembers his experiences as a child and what the island looked like growing up and that inspired him to take on the challenge of creating 12 paintings depicting the Sugar King era in the Marianas.

Keiichiro Saeki, one of Matsue's grandchildren and president of the Sugar King Foundation in Japan, gave Itakura's paintings to the Commonwealth also as a means to preserve his grandfather's legacy.

Saeki related that when the CNMI Museum of History and Culture was preparing for its reopening, he was asked to assist. "I donated albums and personal belongings of Matsue to the museum. I have also translated several books edited by my grandfather to English."

According to Saeki, the photos he had acquired from the Sugar King era were not vivid enough and did not do justice to the island's beauty at the time, so he reached out to Itakura to recreate what he personally saw.

"I hope that these paintings will always be a part of the important memories of the long lasting relations between the CNMI and Japan, " said Saeki.

He met Itakura for the first time in a meeting in Tokyo. "After showing him photos of the old days, I asked him to create some painting of the old days. Having lived here as a child and his passion as a painter motivated him to take on this challenging task," he said.

Saeki first visited Saipan 20 years ago and has since visited Saipan at least twice a year to pay homage to his grandfather.

According to Japan Consul Kinji Shinoda, he has only been on the island for a couple of months but he has felt the strong presence of the Japanese culture on Saipan. He also has since learned so much about how Japanese history ties with the history of Saipan and the art created by Itakura will forever represent those ties.

2 habitual offenders get 5 years in prison for 'ice'

Two habitual offenders each received a sentence of five years imprisonment in Superior Court last week for illegal possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Ivan Jones Castro to five years for two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance. He also sentenced Jeffrey T. Deleon Guerrero to a five-year prison term for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Castro, 40, and Deleon Guerrero, 42, would serve their sentences without the possibility of parole. They were given credit for time served. Each were ordered to pay a $2,000 fine.

The court issued a verdict last Oct. 11 adjudging Castro guilty of two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance in two cases. Both incidents happened on Saipan.

In Deleon Guerrero's case, he pleaded guilty to illegal possession. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

mazda HYUNDAI MITSUBISHI
SAVE BIG RIGHT NOW!
INVENTORY CLEARANCE
3M AutoFilm
FREE WINDOW TINT AND LIMITED EDITION SAIPAN BEACH CHAIR

HYUNDAI

2017 ACCENT

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7H232	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$15,495
7H247	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$15,495
7H251	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALL SOLD ELS	$3,500	$15,495
7H257	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$15,495
7H258	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$15,495
7H259	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALL SOLD ELS	$3,500	$15,495
7H260	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY SOLD S	$3,500	$15,495
7H261	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$15,495
7H270	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$15,495
7H272	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLO SOLD S	$3,500	$15,495

2017 VELOSTER

7H220	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK SOLD M, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H233	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD M, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H235	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H263	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H264	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995

2017 TUCSON

7H309	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H310	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H311	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H323	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H331	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H332	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H336	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H337	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995

MITSUBISHI

2017 OUTLANDER SE

7M037	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSE SOLD 2WD	$4,000	$24,995
7M038	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$4,000	$24,995
7M040	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$4,000	$24,995

mazda

2018 MAZDA 3

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
8D058	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D059	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-U SOLD	$4,000	$16,995
8D060	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-U SOLD	$4,000	$16,995
8D061	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D062	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D063	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D023	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK SOLD , ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D025	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD M, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D026	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D037	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK- SOLD ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D039	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD AM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D040	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D027	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD M, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D028	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D041	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D042	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D014	GRAY, LEATHER SEAT, AT, HATCHBACK, GRAND TOURING	$4,000	$22,995

2017 MX-5

7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
7D203	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOLD OP	$8,000	$25,995

2018 CX-3 SPORT

8D043	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK SOLD , ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D045	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D048	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-U SOLD ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D049	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D050	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D051	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995

MANY VEHICLE PRICES FURTHER REDUCED!
The BIG DEAL

Customers First
TRIPLE J MOTORS
Beach Road, Chalan LauLau
Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm
Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 234-7133/234-3051
www.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.com
Like us on facebook
Triple J Motors, Saipan

* While supplies last. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other promotion or offer. Vehicles not exactly as shown. See dealer for details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2500.

WE DID

From Page 1

Sablan gave the members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday at the Saipan World Resort a concise history of the work that the business community has been putting in to prevent the dissolution of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

"First of all, we relatively had no economy to speak of. We were in a recession for almost a decade and, while the highest government budget went up to $247 million recently, this dropped to its lowest point at $100 million," he said

"So we couldn't really do anything from 2008 to right about the time we had our economy growing again around 2012. …Right about that time, there were already discussions going on about the extension," he added.

The CW program came into force in 2009 with the passage of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act and was first scheduled to expire in 2014. After five years in the system, the CNMI was able to get an extension in 2014, with U.S. Congress agreeing to extend it five more years, this time, with a sunset provision of 2019.

Sablan pointed out that, during that time, when he was president of the Chamber, there was a call to action to get workforce development programs going in the CNMI.

"We were in economic doldrums for a decade. Businesses and government had no money to do what we were talking about with respect to training programs and things of that nature. How would you think we could talk about training and development when there was no money and businesses were literally hanging on shoestring budgets," he asked.

According to Sablan, it was only in 2013 to 2014 that things started improving for the CNMI.

"In this timeline, we were already getting our casino bill and already talking about developers coming in. We had developers on the ground wanting to put development on the ground and grow up and we were talking about more rooms, wanting to have that ability to bring in more airlines and more business," he said.

Soon after, Congress took away the discretionary authority of the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary to extend the CW program.

In 2016, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced H.R. 588, which proposed to increase the number of CW slots to 18,000; asked to extend the CW program through 2029; and proposed some type of status to long-term, lawfully present foreign workers in the CNMI. At the same time, the legislation encouraged the hiring of U.S. workers and for the CNMI prevailing wage to be paid by all employers.

H.R. 339 was adopted for fiscal year 2017, with several important amendments. This opened up 350 CW slots, allocated slots for healthcare workers and power plant operators, barred construction workers from renewing CW-1 for fiscal year 2017, and increased the education fee from $150 to $200 that will be used in the training of workforce.

"That helped but it wasn't a cure-all," Alex Sablan said. "HR 339 was a product which we helped create. We were in an emergency, losing legacy workers in our industry when we were climbing out of our recession."

Fast-forward to today, Alex Sablan said the real cure-all is to go after comprehensive legislation that makes sense to the CNMI's overall economy.

"So we are working with the [Torres] administration, Legislature, and our delegate to get this comprehensive legislation to move forward. NMBAC members are going to Washington, D.C. next week to help in the process by educating the staffers, congressmen, and senators that are willing to meet with us to educate them about our historical perspective," he said.

"We hope that we, the CNMI, will speak in one voice, endorsing what we are trying to do in Congress. We are not passing the law. Our delegate, the Senate, the chambers of U.S. Congress are passing the law. We are just coming with recommendations," he added.

Alex Sablan said they will knock on every door once a bill is dropped.

"We are going to go out to the villages and we are going to listen and answer every question the community has. We want to go on an education campaign," he said. "We want the community to understand why the CW program is important to the CNMI and how this will impact one life and all."

REMIND

From Page 1

Services shaving off 3,000 slots from the CW-1 program this fiscal year, the governor immediately rushed to Washington, D.C. last week to seek a reprieve on the CW-1 program.

NMBAC, a collection of businesses, started a petition last Dec. 1, 2017, to solicit community support on efforts to extend the program beyond 2019.

In a statement from the Torres administration, the governor asked the community to "save our economy" by signing the petition.

"Signing this petition represents our community's collective commitment to ensuring that our livelihoods will not be threatened by federal legislation that needs fixing," he said.

"We need to have Congress hear our voices together."

In the same statement, Torres commended the CNMI House of Representatives for unanimously adopting Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Joint Resolution 20-07, which support the NMBAC and Torres. The Senate has yet to take action on H.J.R. 20-07.

"I look forward to the Senate acting on the joint resolution soon," said Torres, adding that unanimously adopting H.J.R. 20-07 shows that the "entire government leadership" is in support.

"It's the right thing to do for the viability of our economy and for every single person who calls these islands home," he said.

According to Torres, the ultimate goal is for legislation to address the CNMI's long-term economic needs.

"There is too much at stake, and if we don't come together now as a community, we risk losing the jobs we have created, the opportunities that have arisen, and any sort of economic growth in the long term," Torres added.

As for concerns about supporting the CW-1 program, Torres pointed out that access to skilled foreign workers is "not in conflict" with developing the local workforce and reducing unemployment of U.S. citizens in the CNMI.

"It does not take away jobs from our local residents and U.S. citizens," he said, citing statistics obtained from the CNMI Department of Commerce, which cited 1,800 unemployed U.S. citizens in the CNMI. "With the increased opportunities in our economy, that number will steadily decrease."

Torres added that even if every single U.S. citizen and local resident were given jobs, including students and the elderly, "we will still not meet the needs of our economy to develop sustainably so that we can address our longstanding debts and obligations and provide more funding to key areas such as public safety, education, and healthcare."

Torres cited Government Accountability Office reports that concluded that losing the CW-1 program would possibly result in a 62-percent drop in the economy.

"…Our economy increased 28.6 percent in 2016 because small and large businesses have the resources to develop local capacity with the existence of a foreign labor force… [and] we now have more U.S.-eligible workers in our workforce than at any time in our modern economy," he said.

"It is important now than ever that we remind ourselves where we were a few years ago," he added, describing the past CNMI economy to be in the "midst of a deep and persistent economic depression."

"Our tourism industry was struggling with low number of arrivals. Government revenue was at record lows. [We struggled with] high gas prices [and] rolling blackouts," he said, adding that both large and small businesses were "struggling."

"What matters most to me is how we had to focus our efforts to help the parents who sit there late into the night shaking their heads, filled with stress over how to pay their bills, to provide enough food on that table to feed the family because back then we had no economy. No one deserves to go through that ever again. That's what we're fighting for."

"To me, the path ahead for our economy will always have its greatest measure in the homes and around the dinner tables of all the families living in our community. This is why we need to make our case to Congress to save our economy and ensure that everyone from our local residents, to our long-term foreign legacy workers, and to everyone who calls these islands home is protected," he said.

As of 7:30pm last night, the online petition supporting the governor's efforts has garnered 479 online signatures.

According to NMBAC chair Alex Sablan, their petition has garnered "thousands" of signatures while NMBAC member Viola Alepuyo stated that, as of 6pm last Monday, they have garnered over 3,400 signatures, without adding in signatures obtained from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI chapter.

For those interested in supporting the petition, contact Alex Sablan at alex_sablan@tanholdings.com, Velma Palacios at velma.palacios@itehq.net, Gloria Cavanagh at gloria@marianaresort.com, or Josephine Mesta at jmesta@hyattsaipan.com.

SEARCH

From Page 1

185 to 200 lbs. He was wearing a blue shirt and blue pair of shorts when the incident happened.

Yesterday's search failed to find Min. Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* last night that a rescue boat will resume the search today, Thursday, at 6:30am.

A command post has been erected at the parking lot of the Kingfisher Golf Course.

The road leading to Hidden Beach is narrow and rough.

Members of the DPS Boating Safety Unit and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Search and Rescue Unit continued the search on land and sea at 5:30am. A U.S. Coast Guard and Navy helicopter assisted in the search.

Tarkong said police responded on Tuesday at 3:31pm to a possible drowning incident at Hidden Beach, north of the Kingfisher Golf Course in Talafofo.

Police learned from witnesses that Min was taking pictures on a "tabletop" when a large wave pulled him into the rough waters.

The DPS Boating Safety Unit, along with DFEMS first responders, confirmed the information with several witnesses.

Tarkong said that Min was last seen floating in the waters east of the beach.

DPS launched a rescue boat, assisted by the DFEMS Search and Rescue Unit and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter.

The search stopped Tuesday at 7:44pm and resumed yesterday.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said that a DFEMS rescue team from the Susupe Fire Station responded to the beach and did a cliff line search and only stopped on Tuesday when it was getting dark.

DFEMS SARU members did a cliff line search yesterday.

If the rescue team fails to find Min, he would be the 11th ocean/beach, swimming pool drowning victim this year on Saipan, according to *Saipan Tribune* records.

Last Oct. 1, a 70-year-old Asian woman reportedly drowned while swimming in the swim zone at the Saipan World Resort beach in Susupe.

Last Oct. 25, a 25-year-old Asian woman was taken to the hospital after eyewitnesses found her floating motionless in a swimming pool at a residence in San Vicente. The woman passed away the following day. *Saipan Tribune* learned from news articles in China that the victim was Jovie Liu Youling, a cosplay model.

Last Sept. 27, divers recovered the body of a 27-year-old Asian male who was reported missing a day before after spearfishing outside the reef of Pak Pak Beach in San Antonio. The victim was transported to the hospital, where Dr. Neda Farzan pronounced him dead due to drowning.

Last Sept. 17, DFEMS swimmers found the body of 21-year-old Aiwayne Sagun, who was reported missing after he went swimming, but was pulled to the ocean by the strong current at Bird Island in Marpi a day before.

Last Aug. 29, a 33-year-old Korean woman drowned when she and her brother got swept to sea while swimming outside the reef at Obyan Beach south of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport. The brother survived by swimming back inside the reef.

Last July 16, a 26-year-old man who went fishing with a companion was later found dead, believed to be due to drowning, in the ocean near the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Last June 13, a 15-year-old Korean male student reportedly drowned while spearfishing at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa. DFEMS and DPS Boating Section Unit personnel found the boy's body floating in the channel.

Last May 4, a 71-year-old Korean man drowned while swimming at the beach of Kensington Hotel in San Roque, while a 50-year-old Japanese man also drowned while scuba diving at Laulau Bay.

Last Jan. 26, 53-year-old Isidro Wabol was found dead outside the reef at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa.

TINIAN

From Page 2

est in helping us build our economy but without workers, we are going to be reduced to [an] economy that relies on government funding," he added.

Cruz (R-Tinian) believes that segregating the CW-1 slots for both Tinian and Rota must be sought as well. He cited a Tinian business that had to shut down for a month due to CW-1 complications.

As of publication, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is currently in Washington, D.C. to seek a reprieve from the massive CW-1 cut as well as to start negotiating the fate of the CW-1 program.

Members of the NMBAC, including Alepuyo, would be heading for the nation's capital as well in order to support Torres in his meetings.

Prosecution: Witness in Sun's case has no visa

The U.S. government has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI for approval so it could depose one of its witnesses in the case against Sen Sun, saying the witness has no visa to be in the U.S. or in the CNMI.

To depose means to obtain the testimony of a witness outside of court.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley disclosed that the witness is a Chinese citizen who has no visa to be here and has scant ability to support herself while awaiting Sun's trial.

Sun, also known as Sam Sun, allegedly an overstaying Chinese tourist, was indicted in federal court for operating an unlicensed business that offered trip packages to pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth here. The indictment charged him with harboring illegal aliens, unlawfully employing aliens, and money laundering. If he has any response to the U.S. government's motion to depose, he was given until Dec. 13 to do so. The U.S. government has then until Dec. 20 to file any reply.

The hearing on O'Malley's motion to depose will be on Dec. 21.

In the motion he filed on Monday, O'Malley said the U.S. government's ability to support the witness is extremely limited and that it may expire before trial and will almost certainly do so if the case is prolonged or delayed.

He said the U.S. government will make sure to secure the witness' appearance at trial, but in the event that she is unable to do so, the government has—under separate cover—provided notice to Sun of the time and place it intends to take her deposition.

He said the U.S. government has also provided discovery by which Sun can conduct cross-examine the witness.

Discovery refers to a pre-trial procedure in a case in which a party, through a procedure, can obtain evidence from the other party or parties by means of devices such as a request for answers to questions and request for production. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Nursing scholarships program mulled

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In an attempt to relieve the nursing shortage at the Commonwealth Health Center, the CNMI Scholarship Office is looking at possibly providing scholarships for nursing students.

The office is studying the idea of providing scholarship funds for students who are looking into obtaining a nursing degree from the Northern Marianas College.

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the Senate Committee on Education and Youth Affairs is currently looking into Senate President Arnold I. Palacios' (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-71.

The bill seeks to establish scholarships grants specifically for qualified undergraduate students pursuing a nursing degree at NMC.

The committee, chaired by Quitugua, earlier amended the bill to increase the number of scholarships offered from 10 to 20, with three each awarded to students from Rota and Tinian, while the remaining 14 scholarships would go to students from Saipan.

"Funding would come from the CNMI Scholarship Office," Quitugua said. He added that the amount would be derived from the annual appropriation to the Scholarship Office.

According to S.B. 20-71, each scholarship would be worth $8,000 per annum.

In order to qualify for a scholarship, S.B. 20-71 provides that a student must be a U.S. citizen; a CNMI resident for at least three consecutive years prior to enrollment in a college or university, and agree to work as a nurse at CHC, Tinian Health Center, or Rota Health Center for a period of two years per each year of scholarship assistance.

Scholars who fail or refuse to complete the obligation would pay back all scholarship funding received.

If enacted into law, those who avail of scholarship funding from this program would be ineligible to receive any other financial assistance funded by the CNMI government.

According to Quitugua, S.B. 20-71 has garnered the support of NMC and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and remains at the committee level.

CNMI Weatherization Assistance Program to do outreach on Rota

The CNMI Department of Public Works' Division of Energy will be doing a program outreach on Rota on Dec. 14 and 15 to inform island residents about services available to qualified low-income eligible residents.

The weatherization assistance outreach on Dec. 14, 2017, will be from 1pm to 4:30pm, while the Dec. 15 outreach is from 8am to 11am.

With the services available, residents are able to make the necessary upgrades to improve the efficiency of their homes by replacing inefficient lightings and appliances with ones that are qualified energy-efficient, Energy Star-rated lightings and appliances that lower energy use to reduce high energy bills.

To avail of the program services, applications are available at the Rota Mayor's Office or may be obtained by downloading via www.cnmienergy.com.

For additional information, contact WAP at 664-4480/4481 or fax 664-4483, Monday to Friday, except weekends and holidays, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Energy director Thelma B. Inos encourages everyone in the CNMI to make their homes more energy-efficient by replacing inefficient lightings and appliances with qualified energy-efficient, Energy Star-rated products.

Funding opportunity for these programs is made possible by the US Department of Energy through a grant from the Weatherization Assistance Program. ***(PR)***

JKPL celebrates 26-year milestone

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be celebrating its 26 years of service this year.

First established in 1991, the library has a lot of events planned leading to the library's celebration on Dec. 16.

On Tuesday, the library unveiled 12 oil paintings that were created by Eiji Itakura, who was raised on Saipan during the Sugar King era.

According to JKPL director Erlinda Naputi, Itakura created the paintings to preserve his childhood memory and the history that Japan shares with the Commonwealth. He painted them over a span of 30 and will donate them to the CNMI Museum where locals and tourists can get a picture of how the island was liked before World War II.

Itakura's paintings will be displayed at the library throughout December.

The library will also be hosting a free magic camp with Leon Etienne from Dec. 27 to 29 and the public is invited to join.

Local artists and writers are also invited to showcase their work.

For the following year, she hopes to further expand the library's services and to bring back the brel books for the visually impaired. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

The X is here
JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS
$399*
REG. $599
2 DAY SALE ONLY
DEC 7
DEC 8
BUY NOW ACTIVATE
BEFORE CHRISTMAS!*
Available online & in-store.
$88 UNLIMITED
4G LTE DATA
*Limited time offer. Terms & Conditions apply. While supplies last. 24 month contract on the Unlimited Plan required. Applicable for new activations and renewals. Cannot be combined with any other promotion. Unlimited plan tethering capped at 5GB. Not eligible for Motion Passport.
IT&E
store.ite.net ite_cnmi ite.cnmi

Man allegedly rapes ex-girlfriend

A man allegedly raped his former girlfriend as she was packing her belongings to leave their shared residence last Saturday afternoon.

Wen Long Zhao, 38, was arrested last Sunday for sexual assault in the first degree and disturbing the peace.

Police officers who went to the house reportedly saw the victim appearing frightened and had been crying. She was brought to the hospital for examination and the physician who saw her concluded that the test was positive for penetration, police said.

At a hearing on Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Zhao and set the preliminary hearing for Dec. 12 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as Zhao's counsel. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

The Department of Public Safety received a 911 call about a sexual offense last Saturday at 8:48pm. Police investigated and arrested Zhao the following day.

The victim told police that she had ended her relationship with Zhao last Nov. 30, but he raped her last Saturday afternoon. She said she told Zhao on Saturday morning that she would be moving out of their shared residence, but he avoided the conversation and left for work. At 3:30pm that same day, Zhao returned home.

After eating, the victim walked to her room to continue packing her belongings. Zhao allegedly came from behind and raped her. She struggled, scratched his face, and kicked him. Zhao allegedly became angrier. After allegedly raping her, he told her she does not need to move as the house has two bedrooms.

The victim later contacted a friend to help find her a place to hide. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

AMIM talks center on labor and military issues

AMIM members pose for a picture after the conclusion of the two-day general assembly. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam landfill issues, CNMI labor issues, and the role of the U.S. military in the Marianas took center stage at the 24th general assembly of the Association of Mariana Islands Mayors, Vice Mayors, and Elected Municipal Council Members at the Guam Reef Hotel in Tumon.

The assembly was held from Nov. 29 to 30. AMIM is composed of mayors from the CNMI and Guam, as well as Guam vice mayors, and elected municipal council members from the municipalities of Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan, and Saipan and the Northern Islands.

Led by AMIM president Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, the members held discussions with Chace Anderson, receiver for the Layon Landfill in Inarajan, Guam, and with Joint Region Marianas chief of staff Capt. Jeffrey Grimes.

Anderson gave an in-depth presentation on the functions of the receiver as well as their outreach efforts to ensure full compliance of federal orders by government agencies, commercial vendors, and island residents. Island mayors asked Anderson about how their villages can improve their solid waste disposal services. Agana Heights Mayor Paul McDonald expressed his frustration with illegal dumping.

Grimes highlighted Joint Region Marianas' role in the Marianas.

"We have evolved into a remarkable community and family with one unified goal at the forefront, and that is to ensure the protection and defense of our people, our islands, our region and our nation," Grimes said.

Tinian Municipal Council chair Antonio SN Borja requested that the military clean up all unexploded ordnances located throughout the island of Tinian. Rota Mayor Efrain Atalig invited Joint Region Marianas to Rota for rest and relaxation.

AMIM members also adopted resolutions requesting that action be taken by federal and CNMI and Guam governments. Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang introduced a resolution strongly urging the federal government to assist Guam and the CNMI with their labor needs, particularly with H-2B workers on Guam and CNMI-only transitional workers. San Nicolas introduced a resolution requesting the Guam and CNMI legislatures to enact laws that would establish an environmental court in both jurisdictions.

"It was indeed a pleasure to work with our Marianas mayors, vice mayors, and municipal council members on such important issues. I was especially pleased to welcome our newest member, Northern Islands Mayor Vicente Santos Jr., to the Association of Mariana Islands Mayors," said San Nicolas. ***(PR)***

MEGADRAW
Jackpots!
$3
MILLION
THIS THURSDAY
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
18+ To Purchase
LOTTERY
Tickets available here: XO Supermarket, 99cent Supermarket, Twins Navy Hill, Sara Market, New Kagman Market, Lucky De Supermarket, Happy Market, Ming Yang Supermarket, Hanam Supermarket, Rising Supermarket, Friendly Mart or Twins Dan Dan
Results will be published on Saipan Tribune every Friday
For results, visit www.nmsalottery.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-004
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-004, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 9, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7).

Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 28, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org; and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375
Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP18-GOV-027
TINIAN MUNICIPAL TRANSFER STATION EQUIPMENT

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Capital Improvement Program Office (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting competitive sealed proposals according to the requirements of Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-210 from qualified vendors to provide equipment for use at the Tinian Municipal Transfer Station on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the NMIAC §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

Proposals are to include costs associated with equipment, training, extended warranty, delivery, maintenance, as identified in specifications. The Commonwealth is relying on the expertise of vendors in the selection of most appropriate equipment for use in the proposed transfer station.

The specific pieces of equipment sought are the following:

1. Fork Lift
2. Skid Steer Loader w/Clam Bucket and Fork Attachment
3. Baler
4. Press Machine

Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 points based on the following factors:

20 points	-	Qualification & Experience of Vendor
40 points	-	Price
20 points	-	Maintenance Program
20 points	-	Factory Warranty

All proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination as identified in NMIAC § 70-30.3-245 (Responsibility of Bidders and Offerors) which will evaluate whether the vendor has experience and resources for the required financing, warranty, and maintenance services. Proposals from parties who fail to meet the requirements of the Responsibility Determination will not be considered. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the applicant awarded a contract. The applicant selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal conforms to the solicitation and is determined in writing to be the most advantageous to the Commonwealth taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the Request for Proposals.

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal package. Proposal package will be available on December 5, 2017 at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan A. Sablan Administration Building - Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposals must pay particular attention to the preferred identified equipment specification and use this as a guide in submission of proposals. **A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on December 12, 2017, 10:00 a.m. ChST, at the Governor's Office Conference Room in Capitol Hill.**

All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 20, 2017 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670) 664-2408 or email to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.cip@gmail.com. Prospective bidders bear responsibility for proper transmission and receipt of submitted questions. Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

The selected vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and Federal laws. All proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP18-GOV-027 Tinian Municipal Transfer Station** Equipment on the forms provided. Provide one original and four copies and to be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 8, 2018 ChST to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, Monday, January 8, 2018 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, January 8, 2018, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than January 17, 2018. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government.

Victor B. Hocog, Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Director of Procurement & Supply

NMC offers degree credits transferable to the University of Alaska Fairbanks

The Northern Marianas College's recent partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks gives students the option to stay on island while earning an associate degree in liberal arts with an emphasis in social work.

Graduates of this 61-credit program will be able to earn 37 general education credits and 12 social work credits from NMC, all of which are directly transferable to the University of Alaska Fairbanks' social work program.

"The partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks opens up opportunities to our students who won't be able to leave the island," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We will continue to forge our new partnership with other institutions to expand more options for other academic and training areas."

Students wishing to enroll into the four-year BSW program at Alaska Fairbanks will also have the opportunity to complete their four-year-degree program online and through telecourse instructions. All tuition rates for enrollment into the BSW program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks will be at the resident of Alaska rates—waiving all out-state tuition rates.

Any interested candidates should contact Thomas D. Sharts, chairperson of the Social Sciences and Fine Arts at 237-6761 or at thomas.sharts@marianas.edu or Liberal Arts coordinator Velma Deleon Guerrero at 237-6740 or at velma.deleon.guerrero@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Atkins Kroll launches Toyota C-HR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Atkins Kroll Saipan has introduced to the market the first-ever 2018 Toyota C-HR.

Atkins Kroll Saipan has introduced to the market the first-ever 2018 Toyota C-HR—a stylish and technology-filled subcompact SUV crossover vehicle, representing a leap forward in design and innovation.

The C-HR, stylish and sleek, has the sportiness to impress and Toyota design team made sure the C-HR exhilarates its driver anytime, anywhere, satisfying mischief-makers and trendsetters alike.

Guam consumers have already commented about the television commercials on major national networks with a mischievous and clever twist for creative instigators.

The 2018 C-HR maintains the concept's avant-garde physique; modern, comfortable cabin; and bold, outgoing character. The C-HR is equipped with a long list of standard features that includes 18-inch alloy wheels, dual-zone climate control, bucket seating, and 7-inch audio display.

Toyota's team of global designers expounded on one theme: "Distinctive Diamond." The iconic gemstone evokes universal notions of luxury, attractiveness, sophistication, and strength. Designers translated these traits into a physical form that's collectively matchless, sexy, muscular, and edgy.

From the get-go, they strived to sculpt an urban-dwelling crossover that would effortlessly navigate tight congested streets and stand out, with an agile, dynamic expressiveness.

"The all-new C-HR is truly unlike any vehicle Toyota has ever launched," said Glen Perez, AK Toyota sales manager. "One of Toyota's main objectives was to spark interest and enthusiasm in a creative campaign equally as captivating as the vehicle itself."

For all of its sportiness, the C-HR's ride quality is well-sorted, civilized, and highly capable in absorbing the nastiest of untidy pavement. In the end, the C-HR happily finds itself at home in work day peak hour traffic along Beach Road as it does on the open village back roads of Saipan.

For more information, contact Glen Perez at (670) 234-5910 or glen.perez@aksaipan.com.

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, ACE Rent-a-Car, and AC Delco brands. ***(PR)***

Three nominees for SYP award

The Saipan Young Professionals Committee has named three nominees for the 2017 Saipan Young Professional of the Year award.

The nominees are Janel Pangelinan, Lester F. Babauta, and Kristal Ann Johnson.

Their names were announced at SYP's meeting last Nov. 21.

The award will be made to the winning nominees at the annual SYP Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 8, at Latte Stone Room of Kanoa Resort.

The party will have the theme "Santa's Workshop," inspired by SYP's signature project, Toys 4 Tots.

Each nominee is a member of the SYP Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce; has demonstrated community involvement and contributions through volunteer work and outreach; has been an active participating member in the committee by attending events, meeting, and programs; and embodies the SYP goals and mission as stated in the Chamber by-laws.

The three were nominated by SYP members and mentors.

Pangelinan, a mother, is determined to balance motherhood and profession. While attending the Northern Marianas College from 2009 to 2011, she was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The following semester, she was nominated and later sworn in as an officer. She devotes her free time to community events such as beautification projects and youth affairs, helping coordinate and volunteer. For the duration of her studies at NMC, she worked at the Adult Basic Education department as a tutor.

Pangelinan

Babauta

Johnson

In 2011, she joined Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., starting as an underwriter and becoming head of the broker department. She has assisted with marketing and networking and is currently a claims examiner. In addition, she has conducted presentations for many government agencies introducing their health insurance plan, as well as career presentations and class observations in relation to the insurance industry.

She is also co-chair of the Events Committee of the Chamber and oversees major events such as the annual corporate challenge, golf tournament, and installation dinner. She was recently nominated as a candidate for the 2017-2018 chamber board of directors and received the 2016 Saipan Young Professional of the Year award.

Babauta, a father of two, is a former Navy sailor who was stationed on the USS *Paul Hamilton* from 2006 to 2009 where he was a logistics specialist, which deals with supplies and finances of his ship. Upon the completion of his tour, he resided in Hawaii for another eight years as a partner for "Lani Beach by Mireille," a retail business owned by his wife. The business expanded into Guam in 2014. In 2016, he moved back to Saipan and worked as a project coordinator under N15 Architects.

He hopes to open a food truck business on Saipan. He also sits as a member of the chamber's Events Committee where he regularly volunteers for some of the chamber's largest fundraising events. In 2016, he was named SYP's Rookie of the Year and has since dedicated his spare time to SYP.

Johnson is currently a 5th grade teacher at Koblerville Elementary School. She studied at Chaminade University of Honolulu where she graduated with a bachelor degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Hawaiian/Pacific Studies.

Johnson is a highly qualified and Praxis-certified teacher in the CNMI. She holds certifications to teach grades K-8 as well as high school English.

She has been working with the CNMI Public School System for five years. Aside from her day job, Johnson runs an online health and beauty care products business with her husband, Zshop.

In 2016, she was named "Teacher of the Year" for Koblerville Elementary School. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

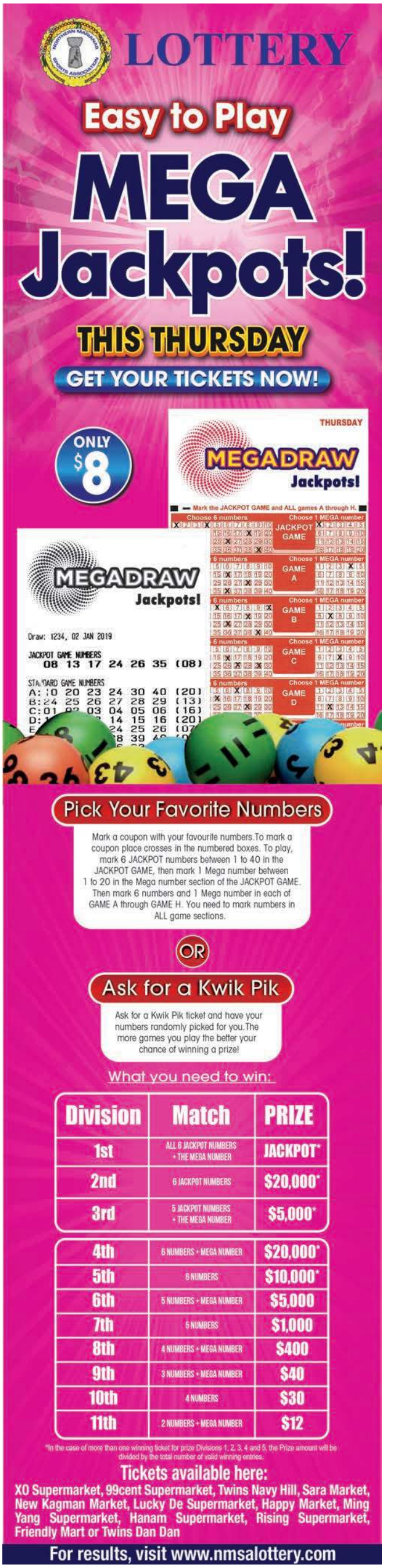
As of November 9, 2017
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Calvary International Mission dba Agape Christian School	11/13/2017 SW-2018-X-019	Agape Christian School 3-story building and basketball court	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Wetland & Mangroves	Approved - 11/22/2017
2. Pacific Marine Enterprises	11/9/2017 SSPI-2018-X-021	Sheet pile wall rehabilitation and concrete deck	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Shoreline & Ports & Industrial	Approved - 11/27/2017
3. Saipan Sunset Cruise, Inc.	11/28/2017 SLRm-2018-X-022	In-Water Maintenance of Jade Lady III	Outer Cove Marina, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
4. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	11/28/2017 SLRm-2010-X-015	Marine Sports Renewal Managaha Transfer	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
5. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	11/28/2017 SLRm-2009-X-073	Marine Sports Renewal Snorkel & Kayaking	Garapan (Fiesta Resort), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
6. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	11/28/2017 SLRm-2009-X-072	Marine Sports Renewal Banana Boat	Garapan (Fiesta Resort), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
7. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	11/28/2017 SLRm-2009-X-087	Marine Sports Renewal Wakeboarding	Garapan (Fiesta Resort), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
8. Auto Marine, Inc.	11/29/2017 SLRm-95-X-264	Marine Sports Renewal Para-Sailing	Tanapag Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 11/29/2017
9. Kraig Church	11/29/20117 SS-2018-X-023	Construction of a single family dwelling with septic tank system	Laolao Bay, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved - 12/5/2017
10. Nury Corporation dba Divewish	11/30/2017 SLRm-2017-X-011	Marine Sports Renewal SCUBA	All Saipan Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/1/2017
11. Arcadia Partners, LLC dba Gualo Rai Townhouses	11/6/2017 SMS-2018-X-017	Eight 3-bedroom pre-fabricated townhouses	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	*On Hold - 12/5/2017
12. American Sinopan, LLC dba Saipan Garden Resort	11/15/2017 SMS-2018-X-020	Construction of a hotel resort comple	Tanapag, Saipan	Major Siting	*Certified Complete with conditions 12/5/2017
13. Commonwealth Ports Authority	12/4/2017 SSPI-2018-X-024	Geotechnical Survey	Lower Base, Saipan	Shoreline & Ports &	*Under Review Industrial
14. Saipan A-Venture, LLC dba Saipan Adventure	12/5/2017 SLRm-2017-X-009	Marine Sports Renewal Snorkeling	All Saipan Sites	Lagoon & Reef	*Under Review
15. DCRM & CNMI Public School System -Tanapag Middle School	11/28/2017 SSWm-2018-X-012	Outreach and Mangrove Revegetation	Tanapag, Saipan & Mangrove	Shoreline & Wetland	*Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major siting's. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.


LOTTERY
Easy to Play
MEGA Jackpots!
THIS THURSDAY
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
ONLY $8
THURSDAY
MEGADRAW Jackpots!
Mark the JACKPOT GAME and ALL games A through H.
Choose 6 numbers
Choose 1 MEGA number
JACKPOT GAME
GAME A
GAME B
GAME C
GAME D
Draw: 1234, 02 JAN 2019
JACKPOT GAME NUMBERS
08 13 17 24 26 35 (08)
STANDARD GAME NUMBERS
A: 10 20 23 24 30 40 (20)
B: 24 25 26 27 28 29 (13)
C: 01 03 04 05 06 (16)
Pick Your Favorite Numbers
Mark a coupon with your favourite numbers.To mark a coupon place crosses in the numbered boxes. To play, mark 6 JACKPOT numbers between 1 to 40 in the JACKPOT GAME, then mark 1 Mega number between 1 to 20 in the Mega number section of the JACKPOT GAME. Then mark 6 numbers and 1 Mega number in each of GAME A through GAME H. You need to mark numbers in ALL game sections.
OR
Ask for a Kwik Pik
Ask for a Kwik Pik ticket and have your numbers randomly picked for you.The more games you play the better your chance of winning a prize!
What you need to win:
Division | Match | PRIZE
1st | ALL 6 JACKPOT NUMBERS + THE MEGA NUMBER | JACKPOT*
2nd | 6 JACKPOT NUMBERS | $20,000*
3rd | 5 JACKPOT NUMBERS + THE MEGA NUMBER | $5,000*
4th | 5 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $20,000*
5th | 5 NUMBERS | $10,000*
6th | 4 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $5,000
7th | 4 NUMBERS | $1,000
8th | 3 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $400
9th | 3 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $40
10th | 2 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $30
11th | 2 NUMBERS + MEGA NUMBER | $12
*In the case of more than one winning ticket for prize Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, the Prize amount will be divided by the total number of valid winning entries.
Tickets available here:
XO Supermarket, 99cent Supermarket, Twins Navy Hill, Sara Market, New Kagman Market, Lucky De Supermarket, Happy Market, Ming Yang Supermarket, Hanam Supermarket, Rising Supermarket, Friendly Mart or Twins Dan Dan
For results, visit www.nmsalottery.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 243

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The destruction of Bears Ears

More than two decades ago, President Clinton tried to end a long-running political battle over the future of 1.9 million acres of federal land in southern Utah by creating the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Last year, President Obama took a similar step and created the nearly 1.4-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah. Both designations protected vast swaths of public land from mining and other industrial uses, and offered extra safeguards for natural habitats and pre-Columbian Native American sites.

But on Monday, President Trump eviscerated both federal designations, proving once again that, to this president, the federal government's promises to its own people mean nothing. The president's decision—which amounts to the largest elimination of protected area in American history—senselessly imperils stunningly beautiful natural areas and geological masterworks, as well as tens of thousands of Native American sacred sites and key wildlife habitats.

Trump didn't bother to travel all the way to the red rock canyons of Utah to make his announcement, proudly declaring in the state Capitol building in Salt Lake City that he would cut by half the protected area currently within the Grand Staircase-Escalante monument and remove more than 1 million acres from Bears Ears, leaving only 230,000 acres in two separate new monuments, Shash Jaa (Navajo for Bears Ears) and Indian Creek. Trump said he wanted to undo previous administrations' "overreach" in establishing monuments much larger than necessary to protect specific sites. Yet he offered no evidence to support his claims of overreach.

In fact, this is nothing more than a giveaway to mining and other extractive industries, and a favor to conservative anti-public lands Republicans in Utah who want land owned by the federal government to be turned over to states for management and development. As we've argued before, states should not take over public lands held in trust by the government for all of us.

The Utah monuments were created under the authority of the 1906 Antiquities Act, a law intended to give a president the flexibility to act quickly to preserve federal lands that hold "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest." Both Republican and Democratic presidents have used the law to preserve land that, in many cases, Congress later decided to designate national parks, including all or parts of the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion—three gems of the Southwest. In undoing the Grand Staircase designation, Trump imperils a regional outdoor recreation economy that has led to an increase in both jobs and per-capita income, for the chimera of riches from mines that ultimately might never get dug in this vast and remote territory.

And Trump isn't done yet. The undoing of the Utah designations is part of a 27-monument review conducted by the Department of the Interior at Trump's direction; more trims

See BEARS EARS on Next Page

IT DOESN'T MEAN I'M DELUSIONAL...
NOW THAT I'M DENYING I WAS ON THE "ACCESS HOLLYWOOD" TAPE.
THEN WHO WAS ON THE TAPE?
ALEC BALDWIN.
MIKE SMITH
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/NAS 2017

Media give white nationalists all the attention they crave

By MARK DAVIS
The Dallas Morning News

Mark Davis is a radio host and frequent contributor to The Dallas Morning News. *Readers may email him at markdavisshow@gmail.com.*

Somewhere, a tiny coven of neo-Nazis is high-fiving.

For the price of a few ragtag banners and fliers, their noxious agenda has been spread over local news pages, splayed across America, and surely by now, there's a cabdriver in New Zealand who knows we had a white nationalist house call at Southern Methodist University.

This presents a vexing dilemma in journalism. The story has to be covered, right? Even if it's just a handful of idiots who cranked out this ripple of hate speech, it can't be ignored. One of the things that makes an event newsworthy is its oddity, and we don't see poisonous messaging strewn around college campuses every day.

In fact, there has been an uptick in attention paid to groups of this type as they have made some forays out of their usual caves in the recent past.

Sometimes it's a stunt designed for shock value, as when they descended on Charlottesville, Va., in August, knowing full well the anger they would attract. Other times it's just to see if they can attract attention to the absurd excesses of their agenda.

The modern media culture rarely disappoints, especially as political opportunists seek to associate genuine racists with the millions of voters who elevated Donald Trump to the presidency.

White supremacist stories are catnip for those seeking to connect those dots, no matter how baseless and slanderous the effort may be. It is not helpful when the occasional David Duke quote speaks well of Trump, as if that proves the specious claim. I'm guessing actual Communists favored Hillary Clinton in 2016, but she does not deserve to wear that stain.

Yet, there's The Washington Post this past weekend, in a moment of sordid guilt-by-association that was low even for them. "White nationalists angered by Mexican immigrant's acquittal in Kate Steinle's killing," their headline blared, an obvious attempt to malign the millions who reacted similarly.

The modern media culture's obsession with our tiny sliver of actual white supremacists plays directly into their hands, offering scads of coverage they could never dream of if the coverage of their exploits mirrored their actual significance.

These days, the media are cats, and white nationalists hold a laser pointer. But what is the right tone of coverage that neither hyperventilates nor underplays?

Their twisted ravings are such a guarantee of red-alert coverage that we see the occasional opportunistic hoax, as at the Air Force Academy last month, when one of the supposed victims of posted racial slurs was discovered as the perpetrator.

A sharp focus on white supremacy's actual scope is a difficult but vital undertaking. No one should dismiss the actual existence of such venomous beliefs, especially when they carry the potential for violence, as we saw in Charlottesville.

But wild exaggeration of the breadth and danger of these sparse pockets of hate across our landscape carries risks as well. Dallas has just blown nearly a half-million dollars yanking a Robert E. Lee statue in a rush that the mayor and council members absurdly coined an "emergency," asserting with straight faces that its mere presence could spark the next American race riots.

The SMU story will surely fuel further craven attempts to paint America as a growing greenhouse for white nationalism. But this should not lead to any calls to ignore such events.

An old saying properly defines a big part of wisdom as knowing what to dismiss. But if even a small band of haters assembles what amounts to a disgusting prank, it is a proper reflection of our values to find those responsible and make clear our collective revulsion.

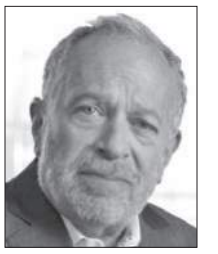
Perhaps the stories can devote less space to detailed quotes of their contorted ramblings. In the SMU case, for example: "White Men! Save your people. Reject the opioid beast!" Really? What are these guys, Klansmen or renegade drug counselors?

Whether these people are incoherent or razor-sharp in their messaging, we are likely to see people like this surface from time to time. When we do, we should know that it is not because they are a seething and growing American faction, but because they know they can count on waves of attention to their malevolence.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The true path to prosperity

By ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune News Service



Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich is a professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future. *He blogs at www.robertreich.org.*

It's often thought that Democrats care about fairness and not economic growth, while Republicans care about growth even at the cost of some fairness.

Rubbish. Growth and fairness aren't opposites. In reality, Democrats have been the party of economic growth and fairness. Republicans are the party of neither.

The only way to grow the economy is by investing in the education, health care and infrastructure that average Americans need in order to be more productive. Growth doesn't "trickle down." It rises up.

Consider the two biggest legislative initiatives over past decade—the Affordable Care Act, achieved without a single Republican vote, and the current Trump-Republican tax overhaul, speeding ahead without a single Democrat.

The ACA extends coverage to some 21 million mostly lower-income Americans, including millions of children.

It's largely paid for by two tax increases on the rich—a 3.8 percent increase on their capital gains taxes and other investment-related income, and a 0.9 percent surcharge on their Medicare taxes. Those tax increases are a major reason that Republicans have wanted to repeal it.

But the ACA isn't just about fairness. Healthier Americans are also more productive workers. Children who receive health care are better learners. The Affordable Care Act thereby fuels economic growth and widens prosperity.

Republicans say their tax overhaul will promote growth by increasing the profits of American corporations and investors. This is trickle-down nonsense.

Every major study (including those done by Congress's own Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation) finds that its benefits would go mainly to big corporations and the wealthy.

Share prices may rise for a time. They're already at record highs in anticipation of the tax cut. But higher share prices don't trickle down, either. The richest 1 percent owns almost 38 percent of the stock market. Eighty percent of Americans together own just 8 percent of all shares of stock.

This won't fuel growth. Corporations expand and invest only when customers are eager to buy what they produce. And most of these customers are middle-income and below, who spend just about all they earn. The rich spend only a small fraction.

Profits are now at record levels, but corporations aren't investing them. They're using them instead to pump up share prices and executive pay.

After the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003, economic growth stalled and then dissolved in recession. After the 2004 corporate tax holiday for bringing foreign profits home, corporations didn't invest or expand. The Reagan tax cut of 1981 didn't cause wages to rise; they flattened.

What's the real formula for growth? Better access to education, health care and transportation, all of which make workers more productive.

These more productive workers command higher wages. With higher wages, they purchase more goods and services. These purchases motivate companies to expand and invest, and to create more and better jobs.

America experienced this virtuous cycle for 30 years after World War II. We invested unprecedented sums in education, health care and infrastructure. We financed these investments through higher taxes on the rich and on big corporations.

The economy boomed and wages shot upward. The wages of the bottom fifth rose even faster than the wages of the top fifth. This unleashed consumer spending, which generated more growth.

The Clinton administration tried this formula on a much smaller scale in the 1990s, raising taxes on the top earners and investing in education and infrastructure. The economy boomed, 23 million new jobs were created, and for the first time since the late 1970s, the typical American's wage rose.

The Trump-Republican tax overhaul would take us in the opposite direction. It raises taxes on the middle class, which would reduce their purchasing power. The Senate version would cut the Affordable Care Act, causing millions to lose coverage.

It also explodes the federal debt, which will stymie growth. Debt service itself would likely require cuts in other programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, education and transportation.

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) warned last week that the Children's Health Insurance Program may not be refunded "because we don't have money anymore."

The current tax proposal would also eliminate the state and local tax deduction, which would likely cause states to cut back spending, including education and infrastructure.

All of this would slow economic growth.

For years, Republicans have been selling tax cuts by lying that they spur economic growth, which trickles down to average Americans.

For just as long, Democrats have been selling fairness, but without explaining why a fairer economy is also more productive and prosperous.

It's time for Democrats to make the case. It has the virtue of being true.

BEARS EARS

From Page 10

are likely at some of those other sites. Secretary Ryan Zinke also reportedly has recommended changes in the management of some of the monuments, such as expanding grazing rights and road construction, which critics say will undercut the very things the designations were supposed to protect. Trump also has asked for recommendations on possible legislative changes to the Antiquities Act that would make it harder for future presidents to use it.

Fortunately, Trump's assault on federal lands has energized environmental activists, and several organizations have already promised to sue. Among the issues is whether Trump can legally shrink the monuments by declaration. The Antiquities Act gives the president the power to create monuments and it gives Congress the power to make changes, but it is silent on whether a president can undo a predecessor's declaration. Several presidents have made largely minor changes to previous declarations, but none have been challenged in court, so this is uncharted ground. Environmental groups also argue that changing a monument's "management plan" requires the government to show that the existing plans are somehow faulty.

If Trump could articulate a sensible reason for his actions, he would deserve a listen. But he hasn't, and such a transparent effort to reward political allies and mining interests should be fought vigorously.

(c)2017 *Los Angeles Times*

Am I doing it wrong? Just be nice about it

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? *and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.*

As the holidays approach, you'll be hearing those familiar little words that make the season special: "Gimme that. You're doing it wrong."

There are, of course, variations on how this sentiment, universal and ubiquitous as it is, may be expressed.

Someone might offer a twinkling smile and chirp "Please allow me to help you!" Or perhaps, in dulcet tones and with a humble demeanor ask, "Have you tried doing it this way?"

But it really all comes down to "Let me show you how it's done."

The most basic, essential and shared human impulse is to stop people from doing things when they're not doing them as you know they should be done.

Under this aegis fall all manner of actions: How to remove stains from linen tablecloths (seltzer, vinegar, hacksaw); How to stop squirrels from nibbling your deck (cayenne paper, ammonia, Glock 42); How to cook turkey, potatoes and kale (slowly, in salted water, not at all).

This happened to me over Thanksgiving, which this year I was fortunate enough to celebrate with some of my oldest and best friends. These people are my chosen family. We've known each other for more than 30 years, have traveled together, spent holidays together and mourned the deaths of our parents together. We have no secrets.

There is nothing we cannot discuss with civility, humor and collective understanding.

Except, that is, for how to load a dishwasher.

Three decades of friendship almost went down the garbage disposal over whether or not ceramic coffee cups can be placed in the bottom row of a dishwasher.

They were not glass; we all know glasses need to go on top. And these were not huge cups that would stop in a dramatic fashion the flow of water upward thereby impeding the cleaning. These were small cups—tiny, really—that fit neatly into the gaps between the bowls and the plates.

You'd have thought I was putting somebody's pet hedgehog into the sani-wash cycle as I was loading the machine.

It took a while and even a few tears, but we got over it. We got over it by hand washing the damned cups.

Everybody knows that everybody else is a lousy driver and everybody also knows how to make that driver better instantly. Swearing is involved.

Everybody has one particular grammatical error that drives them crazy. But it's interesting to learn how wildly that error differs. I would take a Sharpie and change every sign in every supermarket that says "12 Items or Less" and correct it so that it reads "12 Items or Fewer" because "fewer" applies to things that can be counted rather than measured. "I weigh less than I did 10 years ago because I ate fewer donuts" is grammatically correct (while being, in my case, untrue).

My husband and I share one special grammatical wince. As if we were attending "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," we will shout at any screen—even during the most tragic and tense cinematic moments—if a character announces, "That man is sentenced to be hung." Nope. The poor condemned soul is sentenced to be hanged.

We all know the right way to hang toilet paper; it should pull from the top down. But the TP Memo, shockingly enough, hasn't reached all outposts or outhouses, despite the fact that the December 1891 patent for a toilet paper roll actually depicts how the paper should be placed. Is it surprising that I have more than one friend who actually changes the way toilet paper is hung (yes, unlike victims of violence, toilet tissue can be hung) in the homes of others?

There are right ways to start a note—any note. The wrong way is to start with "Hey." It's bad hygiene and poor etiquette; it's like speaking with your mouth full.

I don't believe the trivial should become sacred or that the merely exasperating should be criminalized, but instead that we should be pleasant when we can. I'll admit that I have tawdry table manners and, yes, that I often speak with my mouth full. I am open to correction when it's offered with good cheer and a loving heart.

That's the only right way to do it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲89° ▼78°

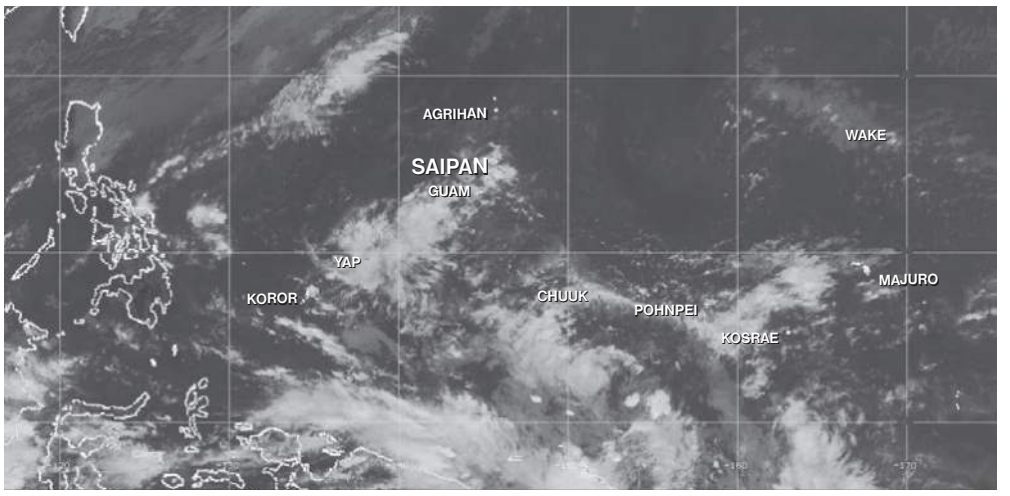
FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲89° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼77°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼77°

MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 2:41 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes made to the inherited forecast. Latest model run still shows a developing circulation moving through Micronesia near Yap. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from west of 130W through a couple weak circulations centered near 5N135E, 5N144E and 2N151E. It appears the circulation centered south of Chuuk at 2N151E is the one the models tend to develop. The GFS is now the least aggressive with this system, however, all the models now show the greatest development after the circulation moves west of Yap. Whether or not a significant tropical cyclone develops, the models are all in fairly good agreement that Guam and the CNMI will see a fairly wet pattern beginning this weekend. Scattered showers are still expected to develop over the islands Saturday night, with the risk of thunderstorms continuing through the first half of next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 25°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	72° / 57°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°
London	Rain	55° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 51°
Manila	Rain	84° / 75°
Melbourne	Showers	64° / 50°
Miami	Thunderstorms	81° / 72°
New York	Mostly Sunny	47° / 33°
Osaka	Rain	48° / 37°
Paris	Rain	48° / 37°
Busan	Sunny	43° / 30°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Salem	Cloudy	50° / 35°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63° / 45°
Seoul	Sunny	34° / 23°
Tokyo	Showers	50° / 37°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	48° / 33°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:12 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.63
11:18 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.07
4:59 PM	LOW TIDE	1.15
9:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Monday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:48 am	9:37 pm
Friday	-	10:43 am	10:37 pm
Saturday	-	11:33 am	11:34 pm
Sunday	-	12:19 am	-
Monday	12:28 am	1:01 pm	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

TRUCKLOAD SALE

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 7PM

OPEN SUNDAYS FOR THE HOLIDAYS 11AM-5PM

$349.95 SEIKI 40" TV

SEIKI 55" TV $699.95

YOUR CHOICE

PROCTOR SILEX 2 SLICE TOASTER

PROCTOR SILEX 5 SPEED HAND MIXER

$12.95

PROCTOR SILEX NON STICK IRON

BETTER CHEF 18PC GLASSWARE SET $11.95

OSTER 14 SPEED GLASS JAR BLENDER $29.95

PRIMO TOP LOAD HOT/COLD WATER DISPENSER $99.95

$59.95 HAMILTON 0.9 CU. FT. MICROWAVE

$6.95 DAHDOUL KITCHEN CURTAIN

$19.95 DAHDOUL EVE CURTAIN

Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Scan QR code to LIKE our Facebook page and get the latest deals and products!

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Customers First TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS! • STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM-7PM • SATURDAY 9AM-7PM • OPEN SUNDAYS FOR THE HOLIDAYS 11AM-5PM

$65.95 KIDCO 12" BICYCLE

$69.95 KIDCO 16" BICYCLE

$79.95 KIDCO 20" BICYCLE

10% OFF ALL TOYS

$17.95 BETTER CHEF 5 CUP RICE COOKER

$21.95 BETTER CHEF 10 SPEED GLASS JAR BLENDER

$29.95 CUISINART STAINLESS STEEL TEA KETTLE

$9.95 RIVAL 12 CUP COFFEMAKER

$22.95 BRENTWOOD 1.5LTR. ELECTRIC CORDLESS KETTLE

$1.95 4 SEASONS POWER STRIP 3 OUTLET 1.5FT CORD

$5.95 ASSORTED SOL EFFECT VOLLEYBALL

$4.95 ASSORTED SOL EFFECT SOCCER BALL

$34.95 YM 568 54-KEY MULTIFUNCTION ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD

ALL EVEREST BAGS 20% OFF

$69.95 HAMILTON BEACH 1.1 CU.FT. MICROWAVE

$99.95 CUISINART 15PC CERAMIC COOKWARE SET

DAHDOUL DORY 3PC BATH SET $15.95

95¢ SCOTCH 2PK TRANSPARENT TAPE

$19.95 BEBEMIO SCOOTER WITH LIGHT US-803

CHRISTMAS TREES 30% OFF

50% OFF ALL CHRISTMAS DECORS

$5.95 HAMILTON BEACH WALK N' CUT CAN OPENER

BRENTWOOD NON STICK COPPER PAN

$9.95 8.5" $10.95 9.5" $11.95 11"

$59.95 BEBEMIO PUSH RIDE ON MOVIL

$49.95 BEBEMIO MEGA CAR W/CANOPY

$19.95 IMPRESS 16" OSCILLATING STAND FAN

$15.95 IMPRESS 12" OSCILLATING TABLE FAN

FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Scan QR code to LIKE our Facebook page and get the latest deals and products!

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

NMC college prep seminar attracts over 750 HS seniors

Over 750 high school seniors participated in Northern Marianas College's Start Smart seminars on Thursday, Monday, and Tuesday at Saipan World Resort.

The three-day event aimed to prepare high school students for college and covered topics like financial aid, admissions, college-life, and many more.

The students were from Marianas, Kagman, and Saipan Southern high schools; Mount Carmel School, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, Da'ok Academy, and Agape Christian School. ***(NMC)***

Seniors from various high schools in the CNMI participate in the Start Smart seminar. In this photo students take part in a team-building exercise. NMC

Current Northern Marianas College students share what college life is like and their experience attending NMC. NMC

Members of the community, along with NMC staff, participated in the Start Smart seminar by sharing their college experience. NMC

Jay Sanchez, assistant administrator from the Office of Grants Management of the Governor's Office, speaks to high school seniors about his college experience. NMC

Jesse Tudela, hospital administrator from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., speaks to students about his college and career experience. NMC

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez addresses the participants of the NMC Start Smart Seminar. NMC

Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs & Services, makes her opening remarks during the first day of the Start Smart seminar. NMC

Students from various schools on island line up to participate in the 2017 Start Smart seminar at Saipan World Resort. NMC

Halina Palacios, corporate quality performance management manager from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., speaks to students about her college and career experience. NMC

Neda Deleon Guerrero, career services manager of Northern Marianas College, speaks to students about her college and career experience. NMC

Bobby Cruz, state director for instructional technology, speaks to students about his college and career experience. NMC

Business

Leaders seek to end GOP fissures over bill averting govt shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top Republicans tried quelling GOP divisions over the budget and a partisan immigration clash simmered in the background as leaders labored Tuesday to push a short-term spending bill through Congress by week's end and avert a partial government shutdown.

Republican leaders postponed a planned House vote on the temporary spending measure from Wednesday until Thursday, buying time to iron out disputes with conservatives seeking tighter budget curbs. The delay underscored the clout conservatives wield within the House GOP as leaders work to avoid a shutdown that would deal the latest blow to a party that has strained all year to show it can govern effectively.

There seemed to be little taste by most in either party, at least for now, to shutter agency doors with 2018 midterm elections for control of Congress coming into view. That included at the White House, where President Donald Trump often revels in conflict and unpredictable tactics that members of his own party consider counterproductive.

"It's always a possibility, but it's certainly not what we hope for," White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said of a potential shutdown. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., will join GOP leaders for a White House meeting with Trump on Thursday, and Sanders said, "The president hopes to be able to have conversations with them to make sure that doesn't happen."

Schumer couldn't resist touting his and Pelosi's abrupt refusal to attend a budget summit last week after Trump disparaged their views on immigration and taxes and said no deal was in sight.

"We showed the president. No games. This is serious stuff. We think he learned and he invited us back," Schumer told reporters.

Money for federal agencies runs out at midnight Friday. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Republicans hope Congress will pass legislation this week financing federal agencies until Dec. 22, giving bargainers time to make longer-term budget decisions and address other issues that have floated into the year-end mix.

Without support from their own conservatives, House GOP leaders would need backing from Democrats to push the temporary measure through the chamber. Democratic votes will definitely be crucial in the Senate, where Republicans by themselves lack the 60 votes needed to approve the legislation.

Knowing that, Democrats are using their leverage to try forcing concessions to boost domestic spending in areas like health care and infrastructure. Hinting that they might back a short-term measure preventing a shutdown, Schumer said approving such a bill "gives us a little more time to do the things we're talking about now."

Democrats also want a bipartisan deal extending a program halted by Trump that lets hundreds of thousands of immigrants who arrived illegally as children stay in the U.S. Highlighting the intricate balancing act GOP leaders face, 34 House Republicans sent a letter to Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., urging him to hold a vote by year's end on renewing those protections.

The fate of the immigration dispute remained unclear. Schumer said bipartisan talks are "moving in the right direction."

But No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas said Republicans oppose mixing the immigration issue into the budget talks because it could cause a shutdown that would "jeopardize our national security and other government functions, just in order to help these young adults." He added, "We do want to resolve this, but it's not going to be before the end of this year."

Besides temporarily financing the government, McConnell said, the short-term measure would make cash available to several states that are running out of money for the Children's Health Insurance Program. That widely popular program helps provide medical care to more than 8 million children.

Lawyer: No subpoena for records relating to Trump finances

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—A lawyer for President Donald Trump is denying that special counsel Robert Mueller has subpoenaed records from Deutsche Bank relating to the president.

"We have confirmed that the news reports that the Special Counsel had subpoenaed financial records relating to the President are false," one of Trump's personal attorneys, Jay Sekulow, said in a statement. "No subpoena has been issued or received. We have confirmed this with the bank and other sources."

The statement was in response to a report from German newspaper Handelsblatt that Mueller had subpoenaed records from Deutsche Bank as part of his investigation into possible Russian involvement in the U.S. presidential election campaign. The report in Handelsblatt cites only "informed circles." Several other media outlets had similar reports, also citing anonymous sources familiar with the situation.

A bank spokesman said Tuesday that Deutsche Bank had no comment on the Handelsblatt report. The bank said additionally in a statement that "Deutsche Bank takes its legal obligations seriously and remains committed to cooperating with authorized investigation into this matter."

Handelsblatt said it was not clear whether the records demand sought information regarding Trump or on other members of his circle. It said the subpoena was received several weeks ago.

In an interview with The New York Times in July, Trump was asked if he'd consider it a "red line" if Mueller began investigating his finances.

"I would say yeah. I would say yes," Trump said.

Deutsche Bank has been one of the few major banks willing to regularly lend to Trump, who alienated large banks in New York with his past financial troubles. Over the years, the bank's cumulative loans to Trump added up to billions, and loans originally worth $300 million remain outstanding.

In May, five Democratic members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to Deutsche Bank CEO John Cryan asking the bank to turn in any records relating to Trump's accounts and any ties to Russia. The bank refused, saying it had to respect legal requirements to keep client data private.

Deutsche Bank in December agreed to a $7.2 billion settlement with the Justice Department over its dealings in mortgage-backed securities.

Nation

California communities under siege from wind-driven fires

VENTURA, Calif. (AP)—Wind-driven fires tore through California communities Tuesday for the second time in two months, leaving hundreds of homes feared lost and uprooting tens of thousands of people.

Source: AP, Los Angeles Times
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

The most damaging fire was in Ventura County northwest of Los Angeles, where 150 structures were confirmed destroyed. But a fire official said he suspected "hundreds more" would be lost when flames died down enough to make a thorough assessment.

In the San Gabriel Mountains foothills of Los Angeles about 45 miles (72 kilometers) away from the city, 30 structures burned. Mayor Eric Garcetti said the gusty winds expected to last most of the week had created a dangerous situation and he urged 150,000 people under mandatory evacuation orders to leave their homes before it's too late.

"We have lost structures, we have not lost lives," he said. "Do not wait. Leave your homes."

The fires in Ventura County lit up hillsides and spread rapidly Monday evening from rural rolling hills to dense subdivisions. Residents, already warned of extreme fire danger, were sent automated phone alerts and evacuations appeared to proceed smoothly.

As the sun rose Tuesday, the first of at least three additional Southern California fires broke out, fueled by stiff winds that prevented firefighting aircraft most of the day from dumping water to protect homes or attack the march of flames.

In addition to prompting hasty evacuations, the fires shut down two freeways for hours and sent heavy, acrid smoke billowing over the Los Angeles area, creating a health hazard for millions.

There were no immediate reports of any deaths. Two people were critically injured in a small San Bernardino County fire, but no other serious injuries were reported. The fires were under investigation and no causes had been found.

The Ventura wildfire exploded to nearly 80 square miles (207 square kilometers) in a matter of hours. It was fanned by dry Santa Ana winds clocked at well over 60 mph (96 kph) and spit embers up to a half-mile (0.8 kilometers) ahead of fire lines.

Lisa Kermode ignored the first evacuation alert that buzzed on her phone when it said the fire was 15 miles (24 kilometers) away from her home. But the flames were nearly on top of her an hour later when she rounded up her three children, still in their pajamas, and told them to grab some jeans so they could leave.

US homeless count rises, pushed by crisis on the West Coast

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The nation's homeless population increased this year for the first time since 2010, driven by a surge in the number of people living on the streets in Los Angeles and other West Coast cities.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released its annual Point in Time count Wednesday, a report that showed nearly 554,000 homeless people across the country during local tallies conducted in January. That figure is up nearly 1 percent from 2016.

Of that total, 193,000 people had no access to nightly shelter and instead were staying in vehicles, tents, the streets and other places considered uninhabitable. The unsheltered figure is up by more than 9 percent compared to two years ago.

Increases are higher in several West Coast cities, where the explosion in homelessness has prompted at least 10 city and county governments to declare states of emergency since 2015.

City officials, homeless advocates and those living on the streets point to a main culprit: the region's booming economy.

Rents have soared beyond affordability for many lower-wage workers who until just a just few years ago could typically find a place to stay. Now, even a temporary setback can be enough to leave them out on the streets.

"A lot of people in America don't realize they might be two checks, three checks, four checks away from being homeless," said Thomas Butler Jr., who stays in a carefully organized tent near a freeway ramp in downtown Los Angeles.

Butler said he was in transitional housing—a type of program that prepares people for permanent homes—for a while but mostly has lived on the streets for the past couple of years.

The numbers in the report back up what many people in California, Oregon and Washington have been experiencing in their communities: encampments sprouting along freeways and rivers; local governments struggling to come up with money for long-term solutions; conflicts over whether to crack down on street camping and even feeding the homeless.

The most alarming consequence of the West Coast homeless explosion is a deadly hepatitis A outbreak that has affected Los Angeles, Santa Cruz and San Diego, the popular tourist destination in a county where more than 5,600 people now live on the streets or in their cars. The disease is spread through a liver-damaging virus that lives in feces.

The outbreak prompted California officials to declare a state of emergency in October.

The HUD report underscores the severity of the problem along the West Coast.

While the overall homeless population in California, Oregon and Washington grew by 14 percent over the past two years, the part of that population considered unsheltered climbed 23 percent to 108,000. That is in part due a shortage of affordable housing.

Asia

UN: Myanmar's Rohingya likely faced 'crimes against humanity'

GENEVA (AP)—Myanmar's Rohingya minority has "very likely" faced crimes against humanity and possibly genocide at the hands of Myanmar security forces and their helpers, the U.N.'s top human rights body and a top U.N. official said Tuesday.

The comments came at an urgent session of the 47-member Human Rights Council, which overwhelmingly approved a resolution that said crimes against humanity "very likely" occurred in Myanmar against the Muslim minority group since a security crackdown began in August.

The crisis has left untold numbers of Rohingya killed and injured, and forced more than 626,000 to flee into neighboring Bangladesh.

Marzuki Darusman, who heads a council-mandated fact-finding mission on Myanmar that has received no access to the troubled state of Rakhine where many Rohingya once lived, chronicled a litany of allegations including the rape of young girls—some burnt to death or with their throats slit—and the mutilation of victims.

"The allegations are numerous and many of extreme severity," Darusman said. "Some have concluded that genocide or crimes against humanity have taken place. We have not yet come to any conclusion on these issues, but we are taking such allegations very seriously and are examining them in depth."

But the U.N. human rights chief, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, challenged the council, insisting that the possibility of genocide was real.

Zeid, a Jordanian prince, cited the longtime segregation, exclusion and discrimination faced by the Rohingya. He referred to allegations of killings by grenades, shootings at close range, stabbings and "the burning of houses with families inside." He noted that Rohingya see themselves as a distinct ethnic group.

"Given all of this, can anyone rule out that elements of genocide may be present?" Zeid asked. "Ultimately, this is a legal determination only a competent court can make."

"But the concerns are extremely serious, and clearly call for access to be immediately granted for further verification," he added, decrying how Myanmar's government has rebuffed U.N. monitors.

Myanmar's army began what it called "clearance operations" on Aug. 25 following an attack on police posts by Rohingya insurgents. Refugees arriving in Bangladesh said their homes were set on fire by soldiers and Buddhist mobs, and some reported being shot at by security forces.

Zeid said actions by Myanmar's government to "dehumanize" the Rohingya minority were likely to fan more violence and affect more communities across the region.

Myanmar's ambassador in Geneva, Htin Lynn, denied any state efforts at "dehumanization" of the Rohingya, saying it "could be an act of extremist individuals."

"My government is doing everything possible to deter these extremist acts," he said.

With his government in the spotlight, the ambassador said the priority should be on returning displaced people to Rakhine.

Zeid, however, said no repatriation of Rohingya to Myanmar should occur without "sustained human rights monitoring" to ensure they can live safely.

He said Myanmar authorities had refused to give his office access to Rakhine, and that he had instead sent three teams to Bangladesh to monitor the situation and interview refugees.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH police to rejoin anti-drug operations

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the national police to rejoin anti-drug operations, the second time he has overturned previous decisions to remove the law enforcers from the brutal crackdown amid growing alarm over the deaths of thousands of suspects. Duterte pulled the national police from the campaign a month before he hosted a November summit of about 20 world leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump. Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Tuesday that Duterte's new memorandum directed the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies "to resume providing active support" to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, a small agency delegated to spearhead anti-drug operations. Roque said Duterte recognized that the anti-drug campaign had been seriously hampered by PDEA's lack of resources, and that there had been a resurgence of drug crimes since police and other law enforcement agencies were directed to leave the crackdown.

2 ex-spy chiefs charged with bribery of former SKorea leader

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors on Tuesday formally charged two former spy chiefs who were arrested last month over suspicions they used their agency's funds to make illegal payments to former President Park Geun-hye. Park was removed from office and arrested in March, and is being tried on broad corruption charges. The Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said Nam Jae-joon and Lee Byung-kee were indicted on charges including bribery and causing unjust losses to state funds. Prosecutors believe Nam and Lee took a combined 1.4 billion won ($1.2 million) from the National Intelligence Service's coffers and gave it to Park's close aides as paybacks for being named NIS directors. Nam and Lee reportedly acknowledged to prosecutors that they paid the money at the aides' request.

Australia to ban foreign interference in politics

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia will ban foreign interference in its politics—either through espionage or financial donations—in a move motivated largely by Russia's alleged involvement in last year's U.S. election and China's growing influence on the global political landscape. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said Tuesday that foreign interference in politics would be outlawed under updated treason and espionage laws. The announcement comes as a U.S. investigation into alleged election meddling by Russia continues, and follows Obama administration concerns about Chinese money and influence in Australian politics. "Foreign powers are making unprecedented and increasingly sophisticated attempts to influence the political process, both here and abroad," Turnbull told reporters in Canberra, Australia's capital.

World

DESPITE WARNINGS

Trump forges ahead on Jerusalem

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital on Wednesday despite intense Arab, Muslim and European opposition to a move that would upend decades of U.S. policy and risk potentially violent protests.

Trump will instruct the State Department to begin the multi-year process of moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city, U.S. officials said Tuesday. It remains unclear, however, when he might take that physical step, which is required by U.S. law but has been waived on national security grounds for more than two decades.

The officials said numerous logistical and security details, as well as site determination and construction, will need to be finalized first. Because of those issues, the embassy is not likely to move for at least 3 or 4 years, presuming there is no future change in U.S. policy.

To that end, the officials said Trump will sign a waiver delaying the embassy move, which is required by U.S. law every six months. He will continue to sign the waiver until preparations for the embassy move are complete.

The officials said recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital will be an acknowledgement of "historical and current reality" rather than a political statement and said the city's physical and political borders will not be compromised. They noted that almost all of Israel's government agencies and parliament are in Jerusalem, rather than Tel Aviv, where the U.S. and other countries maintain embassies.

The U.S. officials spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity Tuesday because they were not authorized to publicly preview Trump's Wednesday announcement. Their comments mirrored those of officials who spoke on the issue last week.

The declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital is a rhetorical volley that could have its own dangerous consequences. The United States has never endorsed the Jewish state's claim of sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem and has insisted its status be resolved through Israeli-Palestinian negotiation.

Saudi strikes rock Yemeni capital after ex-president slain

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Heavy airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition rocked Yemen's capital Tuesday, striking Sanaa's densely populated neighborhoods in apparent retaliation for the killing of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh by the Shiite rebels who control the city.

Residents reported heavy bombing, and a U.N. official said at least 25 airstrikes hit the city over the past 24 hours. The Saudi-led coalition battling the rebels had thrown its support behind Saleh just hours before his death, as the longtime strongman's alliance with the rebels unraveled.

The U.N. Security Council called on all sides to de-escalate the upsurge in violence and re-engage with U.N. political efforts to achieve a cease-fire without preconditions. The council called the deteriorating humanitarian situation "dire," saying Yemen "stands at the brink of catastrophic famine."

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said that despite the intensified fighting, humanitarian flights, including by the U.N. and the Red Cross, resumed to Sanaa on Tuesday morning.

Saleh's body, which had appeared in a video by the militias with a gaping head wound, was taken to a rebel-controlled military hospital. A rebel leader, speaking at a rally in Sanaa, said Saleh's wounded sons had been hospitalized, without providing further details.

The gruesome images from the previous day sent shockwaves among Saleh's followers—a grisly end recalling that of his contemporary, Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, in 2011.

Saleh's son Salah said on Facebook Tuesday that he won't receive condolences for his father's death until "after avenging the blood" of the former leader. Salah also urged his father's followers to fight their former allies, the Shiite rebels known as Houthis.

Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul-Gheit meanwhile denounced Saleh's "assassination" at the hands of "criminal militias," and warned of a further escalation of the war and Yemen's humanitarian crisis. A spokesman quoted Aboul-Gheit as saying the international community should label the Houthis a "terrorist" organization.

"All means should be tackled for the Yemeni people to get rid of this black nightmare," he said.

Iran, which supports the Houthis but denies arming them, welcomed Saleh's killing, saying it had put an end to a Saudi conspiracy. "He got what he deserved," Ali Akbar Velayati, an aide to Iran's supreme leader, was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Saleh's slaying likely gives the rebels the upper hand in the clashes in Sanaa, which ended after his death, while also dashing the hopes of Yemen's Saudi-backed government that the former president's recent split with the Iranian-allied Houthis would have weakened them.

Environment

They fought to save pieces of Seattle's soul…and won

By NICOLE BRODEUR
THE SEATTLE TIMES

There's only one tree to gather around in Greenwood this Christmas season.

The Exceptional Western Red Cedar that was slated for removal after the property on which it has stood for more than 100 years was sold, has been saved.

It happened not long after I wrote about neighbors fighting to save the tree from being cut down to make room for two, 3,000-square-foot homes being built by prolific developer Andy Duffus. A small farmhouse has stood on the property since 1904.

Anthony Maschmedt, a principal at Dwell Development, saw the column and decided to ask Duffus if he could buy the half of the lot where the tree stands. He plans to build a smaller house and save the tree.

Maschmedt is an investor in Duffus' Blueprint Capital, so that made things easier — Duffus even gave him an easement on the lot so he could move the house's footprint over to give the tree's root system a safe margin.

"There's an opportunity here, and it wasn't just about saving the tree," Maschmedt told me. "How do we change this into something positive for the community and developers and growth in Seattle?"

Saving the tree was also a way to counter the belief that developers are turning Seattle's green into the sheen of big new homes and tall towers.

"What we're doing as developers isn't all bad," Maschmedt said. "This is a win-win for everyone. And it's just the right thing to do."

Kim Brotherton, one of a mighty group of neighbors who appealed the city's approval of the Duffus development, is overjoyed. In settling the appeal, the neighbors negotiated a covenant that will protect the tree ad infinitum, and prevent future owners of the property from cutting it down, unless it becomes diseased and/or unsafe in some way.

"Now we celebrate," Brotherton said. "As Joan Baez said, 'Action is the antidote to despair.'?"

Another win for preservation

Cynthia Brothers, founder of the VanishingSeattle Instagram and Facebook accounts that chronicle the ever-changing face of Seattle, has taken action, too, by opening a temporary pop-up shop so that she can engage with followers and newcomers.

Brothers has partnered with Eighth Generation gallery in Pike Place Market to open an interactive exhibit featuring a 15-foot photo display of "Seattle places loved and lost" and a pop-up shop featuring branded Vanishing Seattle buttons, shirts and bags; books about Seattle's neighborhoods and subcultures written by local authors and the work of local street artists NoTouchingGround and @besoSeattle. (Proceeds will fund an upcoming Vanishing Seattle documentary film.)

The pop-up shop opened Friday and will be open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 24 (It's closed Nov. 28).

Brothers' display includes the question: "What Do You Miss About Seattle?" and a pile of Post-it notes on which people can write — then attach — their responses.

The answers are wide-ranging: "The SuperSonics." "Chubby and Tubby." "The Fun Forest" at Seattle Center. The Queen Anne Easy Street Records store.

One person simply wrote: "Seattle." Another: "Where can I start?"

"It's not just places, but bigger themes," said Brothers, 36, who works as a nonprofit consultant focusing on immigrant rights. (Vanishing Seattle is her passion project.)

"People have written 'Affordability.' 'Feeling safe,' " she said. "So it's not just about commerce or consumption. It's about the lifeblood of our community and culture."

Eighth Generation owner Louie Gong, who grew up in the Nooksack tribal community, said Vanishing Seattle "has a lot of overlap" with his space, and the art and attitude within.

"We're reminding folks of Seattle's rich cultural history, before it was colonized," Gong said of Eighth Generation. "When people can see where we're from, it gives them a better sense of direction as we're moving forward. The knowledge of history acts like a rudder."

In order to offset the "gloom and doom" of Seattle's recent boom, Brothers has highlighted places that have survived: The Sheridan Apartments in Belltown and Scarecrow Video, which just celebrated its third year as a nonprofit.

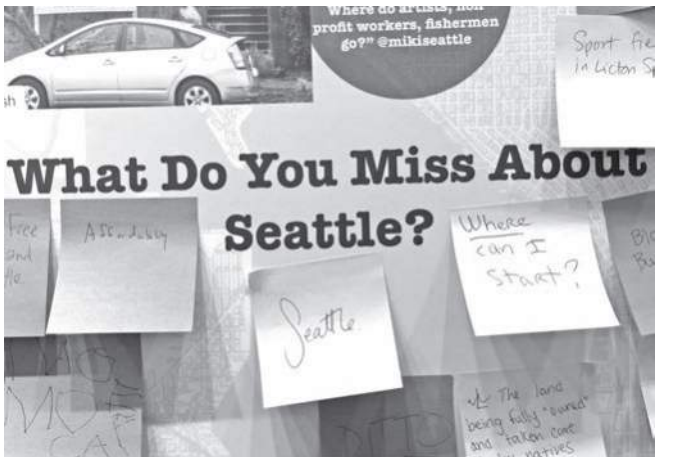
"People want to see examples of people rallying together and actually having a win," Brothers said. "Of people being heard."

Add the Exceptional Western Cedar tree to that chorus.

And here's to the Loraxes of Seattle, who speak not only for the trees, but everything we love about the place.

TNS

Neighbors are fighting to save an Exceptional Western Red Cedar from being removed from a property that was sold and will be developed into two single homes. They held a "Tree Party" to raise money to hire a lawyer, and come up with an alternative plan that would save the tree. The developer isn't interested.

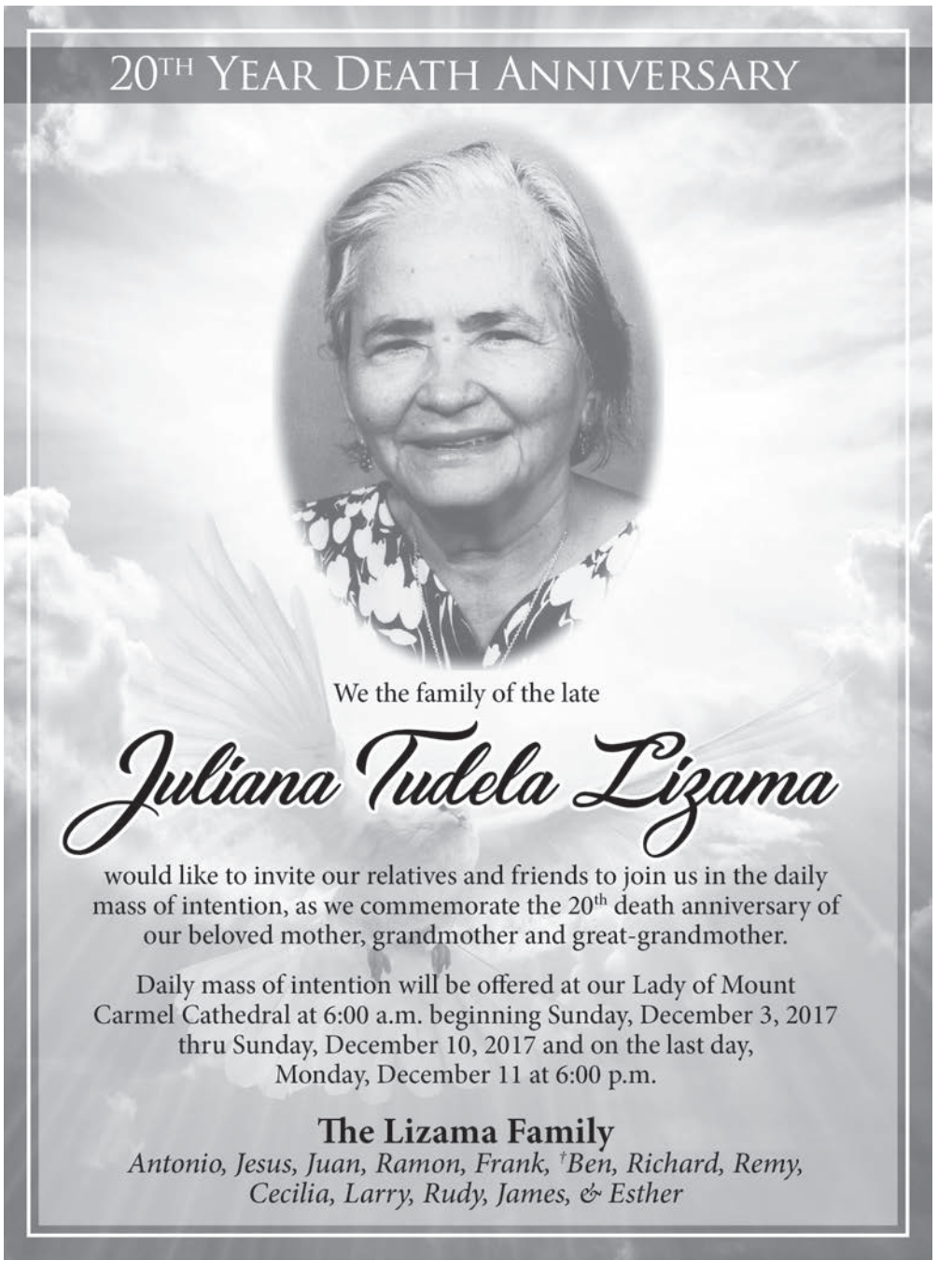


TNS

Visitors to the Vanishing Seattle Pop-Up Shop in the Pike Place Market are invited to write what they miss about Seattle on Post-It notes and attach them to the exhibit.

TNS

Two visitors to the Vanishing Seattle Pop-Up Shop in the Pike Place Market.


20TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
We the family of the late
Juliana Tudela Lizama
would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in the daily mass of intention, as we commemorate the 20th death anniversary of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.
Daily mass of intention will be offered at our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, December 3, 2017 thru Sunday, December 10, 2017 and on the last day, Monday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m.
The Lizama Family
Antonio, Jesus, Juan, Ramon, Frank, †Ben, Richard, Remy, Cecilia, Larry, Rudy, James, & Esther

Life & Style

Top gossip editor accused of sexual misconduct

NEW YORK (AP)—The top editor for the National Enquirer, Us Weekly and other major gossip publications openly described his sexual partners in the newsroom, discussed female employees' sex lives and forced women to watch or listen to pornographic material, former employees told The Associated Press.

The behavior by Dylan Howard, currently the chief content officer of American Media Inc., occurred while he was running the company's Los Angeles office, according to men and women who worked there. Howard's self-proclaimed nickname was "Dildo," a phallus-shaped sex toy, the former employees said. His conduct led to an internal inquiry in 2012 by an outside consultant, and former employees said he stopped working out of the L.A. office after the inquiry.

Howard quit soon after the report was completed, but the company rehired him one year later with a promotion that landed him in the company's main office in New York. It was not clear whether Howard faced any discipline over the accusations. AP is not aware of any sexual harassment allegations involving Howard since he was rehired.

The AP spoke with 12 former employees who knew about the investigation into Howard's behavior, though not all were aware of every detail. The outside investigator hired to examine complaints about Howard's behavior also confirmed to AP that he completed a report.

In a brief phone interview with the AP, Howard characterized the ex-employees' claims as "baseless."

American Media said in a statement Tuesday evening that Howard "has the full support of AMI and its executives." It said since Howard was rehired, "he has continued to have the respect of his peers and colleagues."

A lawyer for American Media confirmed Tuesday that an outside investigator was hired to look into two employees' claims about Howard's behavior.

The lawyer, Cam Stracher, said the investigation did not show serious wrongdoing. Stracher confirmed that one employee had complained that Howard said he wanted to create a Facebook account for her vagina, but Stracher said Howard said that never happened.

"It was determined that there was some what you would call as horsing around outside the office, going to bars and things that are not uncommon in the media business," Stracher said, "but none of it rose to the level of harassment that would require termination."

American Media publishes the National Enquirer, RadarOnline, Star and other gossip publications and websites. In March the company purchased the glossy Us Weekly magazine for a reported $100 million, significantly boosting its readership among women.

In his job, Howard oversees those newsrooms.

AMI spokesman Jon Hammond described the two employees who had formally complained about Howard's alleged behavior as "disgruntled."

Lawyers: Trump too busy to face woman's defamation lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for President Donald Trump argued on Tuesday that a defamation lawsuit filed by a former contestant on his reality TV show "The Apprentice" who accused him of unwanted sexual contact should at least be blocked while he's in office because he's too busy and important.

Summer Zervos was a contestant on the show in 2006 and sued the Republican after he dismissed as "fabricated and made-up charges" her claims that he made unwanted sexual contact with her at a Beverly Hills, California, hotel in 2007. Her lawsuit sought an apology and at least $2,914.

Outside court on Tuesday, Zervos thanked her lawyers and said softly: "Justice prevails."

Trump didn't attend.

Trump's lawyers argued the U.S. Constitution immunizes him from being sued in state court while he's president and said the case should at least be delayed until he's out of office. The lawyers said their position is supported by a long line of U.S. Supreme Court cases requiring courts to show deference to the president and his schedule.

No president has sought to delay a lawsuit in a state court while in office, the lawyers and the judge said.

But in 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled a sitting president was not immune from civil litigation on something that happened before taking office and was unrelated to the office. The ruling came after Paula Jones filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton, husband of Trump's main opponent in the 2016 presidential election, Democrat Hillary Clinton. The case was dismissed by a judge.

Summer Zervos, right, a 2006 contestant on "The Apprentice," enters Manhattan Supreme Court with attorney Gloria Allred, left, in New York, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017. AP

A footnote in that ruling, though, should be interpreted as saying state courts don't have the same jurisdiction over the president, Trump lawyer Marc Kasowitz argued.

Judge Jennifer Schecter asked whether the footnote is specific in saying state courts don't have jurisdiction, and Kasowitz said no. But Trump's job is round-the-clock, and he can't be expected to devote time to the court while in office, Kasowitz.

Zervos' attorneys argued that delaying the case would mean witnesses would forget and documents could be destroyed. Attorney Mariann Wang said the court clearly has the power to hear the case.

Wang said Zervos' team would be flexible with the president's schedule and would agree to videotaped depositions if necessary. She said Trump "does not do his job 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

"We can take a deposition down to Mar-a-Lago in between him going to play golf," she said, a jab at Trump's frequent visits to his Florida resort.

The judge said she'd issue a ruling at a later date.

Dustin Hoffman grilled over sexual misconduct claims

NEW YORK (AP)—A starry anniversary discussion of the film "Wag the Dog" turned testy Monday when moderator John Oliver confronted Dustin Hoffman about allegations of sexual harassment.

Hoffman seemed blindsided and defensive by the line of questioning from the host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight." Hoffman explained the accusation was 40 years old. "I don't love that response either," Oliver said. Hoffman shot back: "What response do you want?" Hoffman maintained that he did nothing wrong.

Hoffman

Oliver

Actress Anna Graham Hunter has alleged that Hoffman groped her and made inappropriate comments when she was a 17-year-old intern on the set of the 1985 TV movie "Death of a Salesman."

Hoffman had said in an earlier statement that the incident "is not reflective of who I am," which Oliver seized on and called a "cop-out," adding: "It is reflective of who you were." Hoffman complained: "You've put me on display here."

The back-and-forth came at a 20th-anniversary screening panel at the 92nd Street Y. Onstage in addition to Oliver and Hoffman were Robert De Niro, producer Jane Rosenthal and director Barry Levinson.

"I get no pleasure from having this conversation," Oliver said. Referring to Hoffman, he added: "But you and I are not the victims here."

The exchange was reported by The Washington Post, which also posted a video of part of the conversation.

Actor Terry Crews, who has been outspoken about his own experience as a victim of sexual harassment and filed a lawsuit against his alleged attacker Tuesday, tweeted his support to Oliver.

"For things to truly change, men must hold other men accountable," Crews wrote. "Thank you @iamjohnoliver, for being an example of what true manhood looks like."

Terry Crews sues agent over alleged groping incident

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Terry Crews alleges talent agents at William Morris Endeavor are "knowingly permitted and encouraged to engage in sexually predatory conduct" in a lawsuit filed Tuesday against the agency and one of its top executives.

Crews' complaint filed in Los Angeles Superior Court states the actor and former NFL player was subjected to sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender violence and emotional distress during and after a Feb. 2016 incident in which he says he was repeatedly groped by a talent executive.

The lawsuit recounts Crews' allegations that agent Adam Venit groped him at the Hollywood party last year and details the actor's efforts to see Venit disciplined after the incident. Crews complained about Venit to agency chairman Ari Emanuel, and the two men have retaliated against him for going public with his allegations, the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit contends the agency knew Venit was predatory and condoned his behavior by failing to punish him for it.

Venit and William Morris Endeavor did not respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

Crews added his name to the list of Hollywood's sexual harassment victims in October when he revealed that he was groped by a high-level talent agent at an industry event. Crews discussed the incident and named Venit as his attacker on "Good Morning America" last month.

Crews claims in his lawsuit that Venit, Emanuel and other agency executives have since tried to silence him and hurt his career.

Google blocks YouTube on Amazon devices in escalating feud

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google is pulling its popular YouTube video service from Amazon's Fire TV and Echo Show devices in an escalating feud that has caught consumers in the crossfire.

The decision to block YouTube is retaliation for Amazon's refusal to sell some Google products that compete with Amazon gadgets. That includes Google's Chromecast streaming device, an alternative to Fire TV, and an internet-connected speaker called Home, which is trying to catch up to Amazon's market-leading Echo. Amazon's high-end Echo Show has a screen that can display video.

AP
This Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017, file photo shows an Amazon Fire TV streaming device with its remote control.

"Given this lack of reciprocity, we are no longer supporting YouTube on Echo Show and Fire TV," Google said in a Tuesday statement.

Amazon didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The battle highlights the power that the world's major technology companies are gaining as they dominate important corners of commerce and communications. As the world's largest online retailer, Amazon has tremendous sway over what people buy, while the results delivered by Google's ubiquitous search engine often help determine what people do on and off the web.

Google is hoping to pressure Amazon into selling Google's products by taking away access to the world's most widely watched video service. Unless a truce is reached, YouTube will stop working on Fire TV on Jan. 1. YouTube was supposed to disappear from the Echo Show Tuesday, although Amazon has previously found ways to make unauthorized versions of YouTube available on that device.

The dispute between Amazon and Google mirrors the face-offs that occasionally crop up between pay-TV providers and TV networks when it comes time to re-negotiate their deals.

But in this instance, the two tech heavyweights aren't fighting over licensing fees. Instead, they are jockeying to position their gadgets and, by extension, their digital services into homes as internet-connected appliances and devices become more deeply ingrained in people's lives.

The bickering between Google and Amazon has been going on several years as they have ratcheted up the competition with each other. One of the first signs that the companies were at odds came when Amazon redesigned Google's Android mobile software for its Kindle tablets. Two years ago, Amazon ousted Chromecast from its store, even though that device had previously been its top-selling electronics gadget.

The latest standoff between Google and Amazon was ridiculed by a trade association of high-speed internet providers. The group, USTelecom, has been trying to persuade skeptics that internet providers will preserve equal access to all digital services, even if the Federal Communications Commission adopts a proposal to rescind current "net neutrality" regulations .

Rep: John Mayer hospitalized for emergency appendectomy

NEW YORK (AP)—John Mayer has been hospitalized for an emergency appendectomy.

A representative for the Grammy-winning musician said Mayer was admitted to the hospital Tuesday morning. He had been due to perform at a concert in New Orleans with the Dead & Company, but that date has been postponed.

Tickets for that show can be used for a rescheduled date or refunded.

The 40-year-old had performed with the Dead & Company as recently as Sunday.

NYC museum refuses to remove controversial painting of girl

NEW YORK (AP)—New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art has refused to remove a 1938 painting by the artist known as Balthus that depicts a young girl in what some are saying is a sexually suggestive pose.

The painting , entitled "Therese Dreaming," shows the girl leaning back with her underwear visible. The late Polish-French artist, born Balthasar Klossowski, is known for his erotically-charged images of pubescent girls.

An online petition that had garnered thousands of signatures on Monday urged the museum to rethink its decision to display the painting in light of today's climate around sexual assault.

"Given the current climate around sexual assault and allegations that become more public each day, in showcasing this work for the masses, The Met is romanticizing voyeurism and the objectification of children," the petition reads.

The petition's author, Mia Merrill, suggested that the painting be replaced by one created by a female artist of the same period.

Museum spokesman Ken Weine said the decision to not remove the painting provides an opportunity to reflect on today's culture.

"Moments such as this provide an opportunity for conversation, and visual art is one of the most significant means we have for reflecting on both the past and the present and encouraging the continuing evolution of existing culture through informed discussion and respect for creative expression," Weine said.

Beyonce presents Kaepernick with SI's Muhammad Ali Award

NEW YORK (AP)—Colin Kaepernick accepted Sports Illustrated's Muhammad Ali Legacy Award from Beyonce on Tuesday night and promised that "with or without the NFL's platform, I will continue to work for the people."

Beyonce thanked Kaepernick for his "personal sacrifice," and 2016 Ali Award winner Kareem Abdul-Jabbar called Kaepernick a "worthy recipient" during a video tribute.

Kaepernick began kneeling during the national anthem last season to protest racial inequality and police brutality. The demonstration sparked a wave of protests by NFL players during the anthem that repeatedly have been denounced by President Donald Trump. Kaepernick parted ways with the San Francisco 49ers in March and hasn't been signed by another team.

He spoke Tuesday about fulfilling Ali's legacy, saying the boxing great and activist "mentored me without ever meeting me."

Kaepernick skipped the red carpet prior to the show and was not available for questions. The show will be broadcast Friday night on NBC Sports Network

Non-hugger seeks polite way to keep others at arm's length

DEAR ABBY: I am not a hugger. In fact, I pretty much always hate it. But people think I'm rude when I don't open my arms to hug after they've opened theirs. And they also think I'm rude when I tell them I'm not really a hugger. It happens with friends, fellow church congregants and audience members (I'm an entertainer) all the time. Although I let the hugs happen, I'm usually holding my breath the whole time.

Once I've "Hey girl'd" someone and offered my warmest smile, what more can I do? I don't want people I like to think I don't like them, or I'm not happy to see them. But I'm fed up with faking it and participating in this ritual that makes me so uncomfortable. If there's a polite, clear way to convey this to people without seeming cold or unappreciative, please let me know what it is.

BRACING FOR THE EMBRACE

DEAR BRACING: You are not alone in feeling the way you do. Not everyone is comfortable with being hugged. I think you should simply be honest about your feelings and tell the huggers that you become claustrophobic when people hug you, and to please understand that your reluctance isn't personal. If you make it about you rather than them, it shouldn't come across as rejection.

DEAR ABBY: My son and daughter-in-law are splitting up. I'm devastated for them and my two young grandchildren, with whom I'm very close.

They live in another state, so I stay with them when I go visit. Although we've always had a great relationship, I'm terrified that my daughter-in-law will not want me to visit her after the divorce. I'm heartsick and don't know how to proceed.

What can I do to maintain a good relationship with her, while staying on good terms with my son? My grandchildren mean the world to me.

HEARTSICK IN THE WEST

DEAR HEARTSICK: The last thing you want or need is to get caught in the middle of the divorce. Try your level best not to take sides and be sure to give your almost-ex-daughter-in-law her space.

Assure her that you care about her and that you deeply regret that the marriage with your son didn't work out. (It's true.) Tell her you have grown to love her as a daughter and hope that, in spite of the divorce, you will always be close. Do NOT discuss any intimate details or assign blame, if you can possibly avoid it, and try to keep your visits upbeat while concentrating on your grandchildren.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I will soon attend a weekend wedding. We will be meeting a large number of people for the first time.

My problem is I have a hard time remembering people's names. I suggested to my wife that I carry a pocket-size notebook and write down names followed by a brief description. She thinks it's a great idea as long as no one catches me doing it. I think, in addition to being practical, it will provide a bit of humor to the occasion. What say you?

SENSIBLE IN SEATTLE

DEAR SENSIBLE: I agree with your wife. Be discreet, if you can. Rather than carry a notebook, it might be less obvious if you enter or dictate the information in the notes section of your phone.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

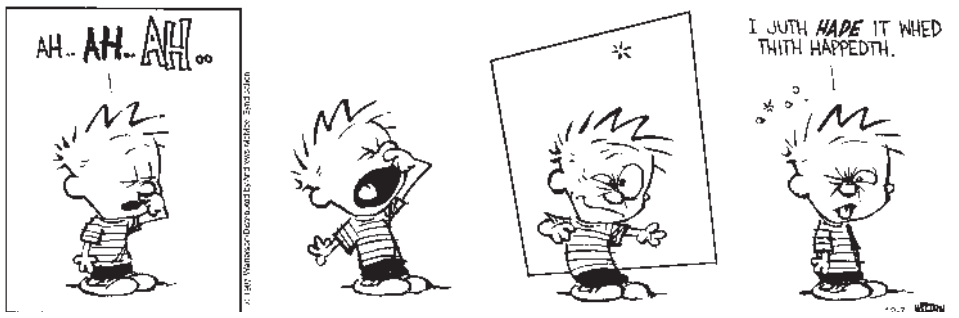
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



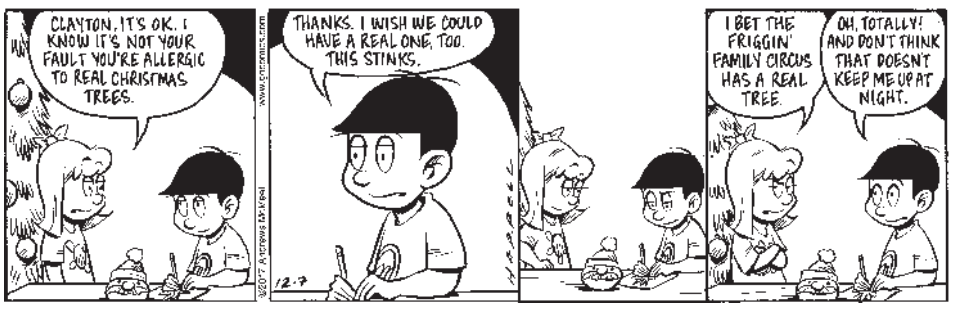
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Dear Santa,
Attached are the dimensions of our kitchen, along with the specifications for our gas hookup.
STILL TRYING, HUH?
SOMEDAY HE'LL BRING THAT PIZZA OVEN
JIM DAVIS 12-7

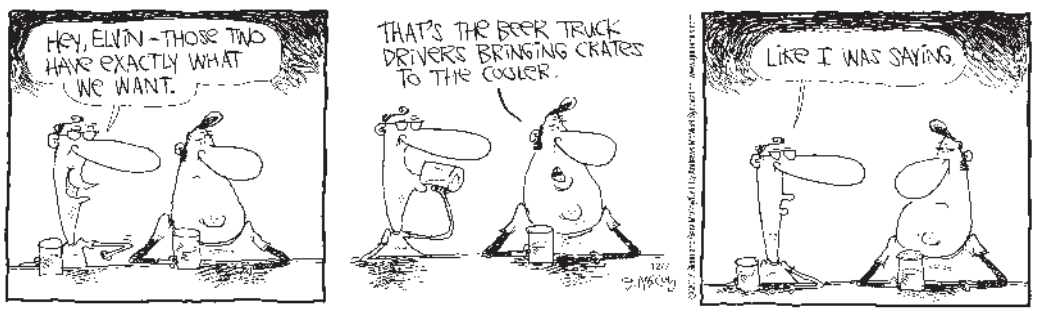
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON, IT'S OK. I KNOW IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO REAL CHRISTMAS TREES.
THANKS. I WISH WE COULD HAVE A REAL ONE, TOO. THIS STINKS.
I BET THE FRIGGIN' FAMILY CIRCUS HAS A REAL TREE.
OH, TOTALLY! AND DON'T THINK THAT DOESN'T KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HEY, ELVIN - THOSE TWO HAVE EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT.
THAT'S THE BEER TRUCK DRIVERS BRINGING CRATES TO THE COOLER.
LIKE I WAS SAYING.

CROSSWORD

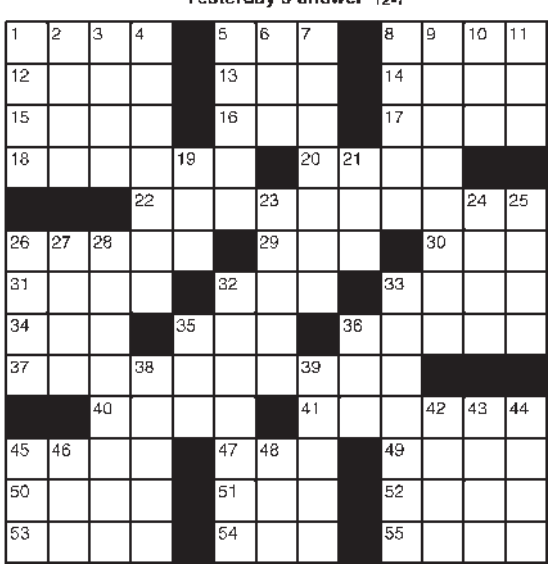
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 God of war
5 Cold and damp
8 Snitch
12 Leslie Caron film
13 Blackbird
14 Send forth
15 Oil cartel
16 Calendar abbr.
17 Raced
18 Fishing gear
20 Missile shelter
22 Church game handouts
26 Making all the stops
29 Actress Adams
30 401(k) alternative
31 "Hi, sailor!"
32 French Mrs.
33 Weak
34 Soviet space station
35 Bakery buy
36 Office notes
37 Percussionists beat them
40 Sketched
41 Agitation
45 Skin soother
47 Conclusion
49 Roof overhang
50 Forum wear
51 Observe
52 Mother of Zeus
53 Lion's share
54 Roofing goo
55 Beach blanket?

DOWN
1 Oodles
2 TV host Kelly
3 Util. bill
4 Ship's hospital
5 Asian noodles
6 Yucatan year
7 Endearing, as a smile
8 Inventor Nikola
9 Large store
10 Fib
11 British "Inc."
19 Like Abner
21 Glacial
23 Xbox enthusiast
24 Bond foe
25 Declares
26 Gentle soul
27 Buckeye State
28 Deep-fried franks
32 Corn Belt locale
33 Bothers persistently
35 "The Bells" author
36 2001, to Cato
38 "Terrific!"
39 Milk dispenser
42 "Funny!"
43 Divisible by two
44 Peruse
45 Cash dispenser
46 Privy
48 PBS funder

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tino Martinez, 50; C. Thomas Howell, 51; Tom Waits, 68; Ellen Burstyn, 85.

Happy Birthday: Put your skills to the test and you'll figure out a way to make positive changes at home that will encourage spending less and saving more. Taking care of business will help you keep your expenditures to a minimum as well as resulting in greater satisfaction. Romance is on the rise, and a partnership will result in good fortune. Your numbers are 7, 15, 23, 31, 34, 41, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Bust a move and don't look back. Now is the time to reach out and take what you want. Don't sit back when you should be speaking out on your own behalf. If you want something, make it happen. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Problems will surface at home if you have made decisions that affect others without their consent. Backtrack and you'll find a way to make amends, but do so openly and honestly to avoid future discord. Offer peace and love, not conflict. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make changes at home that will enhance your entertainment center or encourage you to do something creative. Spending more time with family and friends will give you a greater sense of belonging. Love is highlighted, and physical improvements will result in self-assurance. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make yourself heard. Use your experience and knowledge to make your point clear. Influencing your peers or making a difference in your community will encourage others to follow suit. Stand up for your rights. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't put too much cash into something you know little about. Home expenses should be considered carefully. Taking a look at alternative lifestyles will give you a better handle on how to move forward with less debt. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Financial gains can be yours if you are smart about how you handle settlements, contracts and investments. Be willing to let go of the past in order to move into the future with less stress and fewer responsibilities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Self-improvement will spill over into the way you do your job. Added confidence will give you the push you need to go after a better position. Personal change, short trips and networking opportunities are all favored. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep your life simple and be moderate with spending or other indulgences. Focus on personal improvements, not testing or challenging your strength in foolish ways. Put an end to bad habits and strive for stability and personal gains. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Sort out your money matters and consider the best way to stay in shape without spending a lot on gym fees or workout equipment. Eating smart and changing your daily routine will result in better health. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Do what you can for others. Fighting for the underdog will give you a platform to show off how much you know and the skills you have. Aim to please, not to disrupt, and you will avoid poor results. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put greater emphasis on partnerships and getting ahead in the world. Working alongside others will give you a sense of belonging and encourage you to contribute ideas that will put you in command. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You won't be able to prevent some of the changes you face, but you can adjust and move along. Prolonging the inevitable will result in additional stress. Be smart, efficient and cut your losses. Protect your assets and your health. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are high-spirited, enthusiastic and proactive. You are popular and supportive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3		4		6		
			9		6			
		5				3		
	1			9			7	
8			2		7			9
	3			5			6	
		7				1		
			3		1			
		4		7		5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	8	7	9	1	4	3	2
3	1	4	2	6	5	8	9	7
2	9	7	8	3	4	6	5	1
4	2	5	9	7	8	1	6	3
9	3	6	1	5	2	7	8	4
7	8	1	3	4	6	5	2	9
8	4	2	5	1	9	3	7	6
5	6	3	4	2	7	9	1	8
1	7	9	6	8	3	2	4	5

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'WILL AND GRACE' IS BACK (TV SERIES) **Solution: 9 letters**

G	O	I	R	A	S	O	R	E	S	K	I	P	E	E
U	N	C	H	E	R	A	S	I	T	C	O	M	L	L
E	W	I	Y	R	Z	O	C	G	N	A	O	L	O	A
S	M	A	Ⓢ	A	M	A	O	G	E	J	I	A	R	V
T	H	Ⓝ	L	S	E	A	N	E	M	O	H	U	T	I
S	Ⓐ	A	T	K	E	V	N	R	T	N	C	G	E	V
Ⓕ	S	S	A	T	E	M	I	K	R	O	N	H	L	E
R	A	R	B	E	D	R	C	L	A	S	Y	E	E	R
C	E	L	I	F	E	A	K	F	P	I	L	R	V	E
N	C	L	N	A	M	U	R	T	A	R	L	E	I	N
A	N	I	D	R	D	E	N	G	S	R	A	Y	S	G
H	I	W	O	A	Y	R	R	A	H	O	L	W	I	I
O	V	C	V	E	N	A	J	I	G	M	L	A	O	S
K	C	I	N	H	C	T	U	M	C	E	U	L	N	E
M	D	S	H	E	L	L	E	Y	D	E	M	O	C	D

© 2017 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 12/7

Adler, Apartment, Cast, Cher, Comedy, Connick, David, Debra, Designer, Elliot, Eric, Fans, Grace, Guests, Harry, Hayes, Jack, Jane, Karen, Kohan, Laugh, Lawyer, Life, Live, Lynch, McCormack, McFarland, Megan, Messing, Morrison, Mullally, Mutchnick, Reggie, Revival, Role, Rosario, Salazar, Sean, Shelley, Sitcom, Skip, Television, Truman, Vince, Walker, Will

Yesterday's Answer: Conquered

Treasuries 13 through 26 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Manager: $1,500-$2,000/mo. 4-year engineering college degree and at least 2 years of management experience in a construction company are required. Email resume to betocorp@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Photographer or assistant: 2 years experience preferred, but not required. Compensation is negotiable based on experience. Email resume to summerglowphoto@gmail.com.

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
You're looking at it!
Saipan Tribune 235-6397

share the power of a wish℠
MAKE-A-WISH®
Visit us at:
Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474
Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

Gemkell Saipan Corporation

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor, Bottega Veneta (1)

High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes or application documents must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on Friday, December 15, 2017.** Background checks will be required prior to employment.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0130
-v-	:	
ANTONIO C. BARCINAS and RAMONA S.N. BARCINAS, Defendants.	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 15, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 018 B 159, situated in Tanapag, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 901 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 018 B 29, the original of which was recorded on July 17, 1997, as Document no. 97-1706, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 22, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of October, 2017

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 • Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp
Tel, (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax, (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt Governor Victor B. Hocog, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Mr. Ignacio L. Perez, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2016 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 22, 2017. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 31, 2017. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours.

Ignacio L. Perez
Chairman of the Board

WHATZIT Solution: Receding hairline

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

HARE HARE HARE HARE

WHATZIT ™ & © 2017 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Westbrook's triple-double leads Thunder past Jazz

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—With all the excitement about the Oklahoma City Thunder's new Big Three this season, Steven Adams had become a bit of an afterthought.

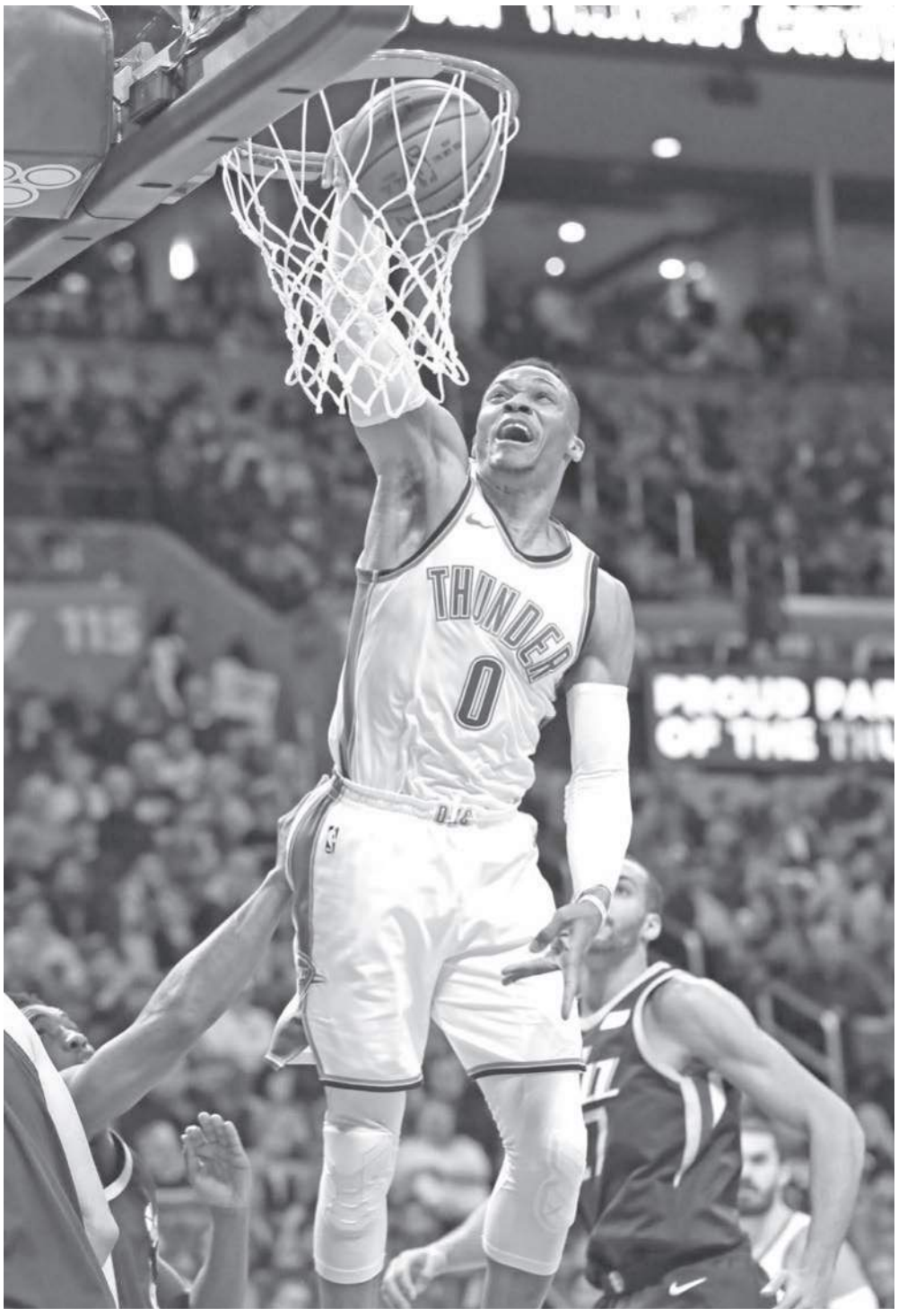
Not anymore. The 7-foot center had 20 points and nine rebounds to support Russell Westbrook's triple-double, and the Thunder defeated the Utah Jazz 100-94 on Tuesday night.

The Thunder have won three straight, and Adams' offensive play has been critical. During the streak, he has averaged 22 points and 8.3 rebounds and made 28 of 34 shots from the field.

"That's good, mate," the New Zealander said. "Good stuff."

The two new stars did their parts, too—Paul George scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and Carmelo Anthony added 14 points and eight rebounds. They also opened things up for Adams, and now, teams have been forced to decide whether to focus on Adams or on George and Anthony, two of the league's most capable scorers.

"The reason why Steven is doing what he's going is because of Carmelo Anthony and Paul George," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "When we're patient on offense, Steven's going to get those opportunities. Steven's not doing really anything different from maybe he's done in the past."



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) dunks in front of Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert, right, in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017.

Westbrook finished with 34 points, 14 assists and 13 rebounds to register his seventh triple-double of the season. Oklahoma City outscored the Jazz 32-14 in the fourth quarter to complete a rally from 17 points down in the third.

Rookie Donovan Mitchell scored 31 points and Joe Ingles added 16 for the Jazz, who had won six straight and scored at least 106 points in each game.

The Jazz led 47-39 at halftime, and they opened things up even more early in the third quarter. A driving layup by Alec Burks put the Jazz up 72-55 as the Thunder continued to misfire on open shots.

Westbrook closed out the third quarter strong and helped the Thunder cut Utah's lead to 80-68 by the end of the period. He scored 11 points in the quarter.

"Russell Westbrook, the MVP of the league, got going," Utah coach Quin Snyder said. "I thought in the third quarter, he gave them a lot of energy and gave them points."

Oklahoma City cut the deficit to six points early in the final period before Westbrook re-entered the game after a brief rest. The Thunder finally took the lead on a layup by Westbrook with about four minutes remaining.

Adams didn't put up big numbers late in the game, but he made a critical tip-in with 43.2 seconds left to put the Thunder up five.

Oklahoma City's defense—statistically one of the league's best— tightened up late in the game. Utah shot 30 percent in the fourth quarter.

"(Andre) Roberson's one of the best defenders in the league, Paul George is one of the best defenders in the league. Russell Westbrook turned it up defensively, and that's tough," Snyder said.

The Thunder now have won three straight close games after making a habit of losing them.

"We stayed with it," Westbrook said. "Teams are going to make runs. It's about what you do when you get hit in the mouth. We learned our lesson, and we know that we have to continue to fight, and we did that tonight.

Raptors 125, Suns 113

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry had 20 points and 10 assists, DeMar DeRozan scored 20 points and the Raptors beat the Phoenix Suns, improving their NBA-best home record to 9-1.

Suns guard Devin Booker had to be carried off the floor by two teammates after suffering an apparent leg injury with 2:40 remaining and Phoenix trailing by 11. Booker froze in pain while playing defense and did not move as trainers came out to examine him.

Booker, who shook off a 2-for-11 start to score a season-high 46 points Monday in a win at Philadelphia, shot 0 for 7 in the first half Tuesday. He finished 4 for 15 with 19 points, including 10 of 12 from the foul line.

Serge Ibaka scored 19 points and OG Anunoby matched his career high with 16 as Toronto won its fourth straight.

The Raptors, who have scored 100 or more points in 10 consecutive games, almost reached triple digits in three quarters Tuesday. Toronto led 97-79 heading to the fourth and weren't seriously challenged in the final frame.

Greg Monroe had 11 points and 10 rebounds as the weary Suns wrapped up a six-game, 10-day road trip with their seventh of 15 back-to-backs this season. Phoenix is 3-4 in the second game of back-to-backs.

Alex Len scored 13 points and Troy Daniels and Josh Jackson each had 13 for Phoenix, which went 2-4 on its trip.

Wizards 106, Trail Blazers 92

In Portland, Bradley Beal scored a career-high 51 points, and the Washington Wizards bounced back from a demoralizing loss the night before to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 106-92 on Tuesday night.

Beal made 21 field goals, also a career high, and the Wizards led by as many as 23 points. He hit five 3-pointers.

Damian Lillard finished with 30 points, eight rebounds and nine assists for the Blazers, who have lost three straight at home after returning from a 4-1 trip.

Portland was hurt midway through the final quarter when center Jusuf Nurkic limped off the court and to the locker room after appearing to injure his right ankle. He had 15 points and nine rebounds before leaving.

The Wizards were coming off a 116-69 loss Monday night at Utah, the second-largest losing margin in franchise history.

Steelers' Shazier remains in hospital with back injury

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Ryan Shazier will remain in a Cincinnati hospital until at least Wednesday to undergo further testing on a spinal injury suffered in the first quarter of Monday night's win over the Bengals.

Shazier left Paul Brown Stadium on a stretcher less than four minutes into his team's 23-20 victory over Cincinnati following a tackle that left the 25-year-old writhing on the turf, his legs motionless. He underwent extensive testing overnight, with the team saying Shazier's injury did not require surgery "at this time."

The Steelers had hoped Shazier would be able to return to Pittsburgh on Tuesday. The timetable has been pushed back at least 24 to 48 hours. He will remain at University of Cincinnati Medical Center under the care of neurosurgeons David Okonwko and Joseph Cheng. Shazier is expected to be transferred to a Pittsburgh hospital later in the week.

While the severity of the injury will remain unknown until the swelling subsides, the relentlessly upbeat Shazier offered a bit of hope Tuesday evening.

"Thank you for the prayers," Shazier tweeted . "Your support is uplifting to me and my family. (hash) SHALIEVE"

While Shazier stayed in Cincinnati surrounded by family and his medical team, the Steelers are left trying to find a way forward without one of their rising stars.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin, general manager Kevin Colbert and team president Art Rooney II visited Shazier before heading back to Pittsburgh. Tomlin called their conversation "normal" and said Shazier was concerned about the well-being of the rest of the team, including good friend and fellow inside linebacker Vince Williams.

"Ryan is a legitimate leader," Tomlin said. "He's asking about the guys, Vince particularly. I told him about the guys. We talked about how the game unfolded."

And not about Shazier's prognosis.

"It was painful to get on that plane last night, but that's life," Tomlin said. "We realize and understand he's in really good hands and is getting expert medical care. He challenged us to move on with what we need to move on with."

Shazier's injury came on a relatively innocuous-looking play. Cincinnati quarterback Andy Dalton hit Josh Malone for a short 3-yard gain, with Shazier hitting Malone square in the back. Shazier, in his fourth season after being taken in the first round of the 2014 draft, led with his head while making the tackle.

He immediately rolled over onto his back, raising his hands in the air while his legs went limp. He was placed on a backboard, then put on a stretcher before being taken to the trauma center at University of Cincinnati Medical Center while players from both sides watched in silence or knelt in prayer.

"I've been in football all my life. Unfortunately injuries occur, serious injuries occur from time to time. They're capable of shaking you," Tomlin said. "We all deal with it in different ways."

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said on his weekly radio spot on 93.7 The Fan that he'd heard "encouraging things" but that Shazier was "not out of the woods."

Pittsburgh appeared to spend much of the first half in a daze following Shazier's exit, falling behind by 17 points before rallying to win its seventh straight on Chris Boswell's field goal on the final snap, culminating more than three hours of occasionally brutal play.

The teams combined for 239 penalty yards and five personal fouls, including a taunting penalty on Steelers rookie wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster for a blindside hit on Cincinnati linebacker Vontaze Burfict that resulted in Smith-Schuster being hit with a one-game suspension .

Jeter says no decision yet about Stanton

MIAMI (AP)—New Miami Marlins CEO Derek Jeter says the team has made no decision regarding right fielder Giancarlo Stanton, who is on the trading block following an MVP season.

The San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals are considered frontrunners to acquire Stanton, with both teams offering a package of prospects. But the major league home run champion can veto any deal because his record $325 million, 13-year contract includes a no-trade clause.

"We will explore every option out there to make our organization better," Jeter said Tuesday on the Marlins' flagship radio station, WINZ-AM. "There have been no decisions. We have not made many decisions on the baseball side. We're still gathering information. Anything up to this point has been speculation."

The revenue-starved Marlins hope to trade Stanton to help reduce payroll by at least 20 percent to $90 million or less as part of a rebuilding under a new ownership group that includes Jeter.

Stanton is owed $295 million over the final decade of his contract, including $25 million in 2018. He led the major leagues this year with 59 homers and 132 RBI and was voted National League MVP.

"He is arguably the best player in the game," Jeter said. "He had one of the greatest seasons I've seen a player have in the last 20-plus years."

AP

The San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals are considered frontrunners to acquire Giancarlo Stanton, but New Miami Marlins CEO Derek Jeter says the team has made no decision regarding the right fielder, who is on the trading block following an MVP season.

Unless a deal is completed this week, Stanton's future will be the No. 1 topic at the baseball winter meetings beginning Sunday in Orlando. President of baseball operations Michael Hill will be the Marlins' point man in negotiations, rather than Jeter.

"I have never been to the winter meetings," Jeter said, "and quite frankly I don't think I'm going to the winter meetings this time, either. Michael and I will be in constant communication. I'll let him enjoy it, and I'll just get the updates."

Jeter, the former captain of the New York Yankees, became the Marlins' chief executive officer when a group headed by venture capitalist Bruce Sherman bought the team for $1.2 billion in October.

In Kansas City, right-hander Wily Peralta and the Royals have agreed to a one-year contract worth $1,525,000, a deal that includes a club option for 2019.

The 28-year-old gets a $1.5 million salary next year and the chance to earn $1.25 million annually in performance bonuses. The option is for $3 million with a $25,000 buyout. If the Royals decline the option, he would be eligible for salary arbitration.

Peralta went 5-4 with a 7.85 ERA in 19 appearances for Milwaukee this year and was designated for assignment in July. He is 47-52 with a 4.88 ERA over his six-year big league career, all with the Brewers. His best season was 2014, when he went 17-11 with a 3.53 ERA as a starter.

The Royals figure to be in rebuilding mode with most of their core free agents and expected to sign elsewhere. Peralta offers an inexpensive, low-risk piece for the bullpen or rotation.

Russians can compete at Olympics, but without flag

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)—Russian athletes will be allowed to stand on the medal podium at the Winter Olympics—just not with their anthem playing or their nation's flag rising above them.

The International Olympic Committee barred Russia and its sports leaders from the upcoming games in South Korea after its lead investigator concluded members of the Russian government concocted a doping scheme at the 2014 Sochi Games that "caused unprecedented damage to Olympism and to sports."

Not welcome in Pyeongchang next year will be any sign of the Russian Olympic Committee or any member of its sports ministry, which was responsible for what investigators concluded was a top-to-bottom scheme of "manipulation and cheating" to ensure Russians could dope at the Olympics on their home turf and not get caught.

The IOC punishment did leave room for many Russians to compete under the name "Olympic Athlete from Russia" or OAR. They would have to pass drug tests to prove they were clean and also did not benefit from the Sochi scheme.

If they win, the Olympic flag would be raised and the Olympic anthem played to honor their victories. That is, if Russian President Vladimir Putin allows them to go to the Feb. 9-25 games. He previously has said it would be humiliating for Russia to compete without its national symbols.

"An Olympic boycott has never achieved anything," IOC President Thomas Bach said at a news conference. "Secondly, I don't see any reason for a boycott by the Russian athletes because we allow the clean athletes there to participate."

Alexander Zhukov, the Russian Olympic Committee president who also was suspended from his IOC membership, told TV reporters in Lausanne that one key was preserving the name "Russia" in the team name.

"They'll be called Russian athletes and not some kind of neutrals ... that's very important," Zhukov said.

If it was a victory to have the word "Russia" in the team name and invite some Russian athletes to compete, it came at a cost.

The IOC also suspended the Russian Olympic Committee until at least the start of the closing ceremony in South Korea.

In an embarrassment for Russia's hosting of the 2018 World Cup, the IOC also banned Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko from the Olympics for life.

Mutko heads the organizing committee of soccer's next World Cup. As sports minister in 2014, he was deeply implicated in the Sochi doping plot by two IOC commissions and a World Anti-Doping Agency investigation.

"The IOC executive board has made its positon to the responsibility of Mr. Mutko very clear," said Bach, who would not comment if it was appropriate for soccer's governing body FIFA to continue working with an official who is also president of Russia's soccer federation.

At the State Kremlin Palace on Dec. 1, FIFA President Gianni Infantino said at a joint news conference with Mutko that the IOC's decision would not affect the World Cup.

That message was repeated Tuesday by FIFA in a statement which noted that its ethics and disciplinary committees could still open cases against Mutko and Russian soccer players implicated in doping cover-ups.

The IOC also imposed a fine of $15 million on the Russian Olympic Committee to pay for its two investigations into the case and toward future anti-doping work.

The sanctions could be challenged at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Any Russian athlete hoping to earn invitations to Pyeongchang will have to come through a stricter-than-usual testing regime and not have a doping violation on their record.

Invitations will be decided by an IOC panel chaired by former France Sports Minister Valerie Fourneyron.

The IOC also will bar Russian officials who were team leaders at Sochi, and coaches or medial staff who have been linked to doping athletes.

The CEO of the Sochi Olympics, Dmitry Chernyshenko, also had his place on an Olympic panel overseeing the 2022 Beijing Winter Games withdrawn by the IOC.

Russia has repeatedly refused to accept that a state-sponsored doping program existed. Such denials helped ensure bans on its track federation and anti-doping agency have not been lifted.

Instead, Russia blames Grigory Rodchenkov, the former director of Moscow and Sochi testing laboratories, as a rogue employee. It wants the scientist extradited from the United States, where he is a protected witness.

The executive board reached its decision Tuesday after a scheduled 4+-hour debate when it heard from a Russian delegation that included world figure skating champion Evgenia Medvedeva. The delegation was led by Zhukov, who was later suspended.

Two IOC commission leaders—appointed after WADA investigator Richard McLaren upheld Rodchenkov's doping claims in July 2016—also reported to the Olympic board.

The report by IOC-appointed investigator Samuel Schmid, the former president of Switzerland who was asked to verify an "institutional conspiracy," included a 50-page sworn affidavit from Rodchenkov, who was also a key witness for McLaren and an IOC disciplinary commission.

The chairman of that disciplinary panel, Swiss lawyer Denis Oswald, reported about prosecuting Russian athletes implicated in cheating at Sochi. By Monday, 25 Russians had been disqualified from the Sochi Games and banned from the Olympics for life, and 11 medals were stripped. One Russian was cleared.

Team Taro Sue leads relay finishers in HOM

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Members of Team Taro Sue, center, Team Giasconfrontre, left, and Team PIC 1 pose with their medals after making it to the podium of the four-person men's relay division of last Saturday's 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race.

JON PEREZ
Heather Kennedy pedals her way out of Grotto during las Saturday's Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race.

Team Taro Sue lorded it over in the relay division of last Saturday's 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race in Marpi.

Bob Ferrer, Alex Gonzon, Jojo Valencia, and Bobby Vargas were the members of the fastest team, ruling the four-person relay men's category in the road bike division as they crossed the finish line in 4:29:23.

Team Giasconfrontre, whose members included Ding Ramos and Ernie Henson, came in at second with a time of 4:35:53, while the Rommel Bartolo and Raymond Tolentino-led Team PIC 1 was ranked third after clocking in at 4:49:34.

In other results, Phil Galang and Rusty Valino conquered the 115-kilometer race and topped the two-person men's relay after submitting 4:41:46, while the Young & Restless of Ben Babauta and David Muna crossed the finish line in 5:17:38. Stearns & Derek of Tony Stearns and Derek Chambers was the third best two-person men's team after completing the course in 5:33:17.

U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy and Kanae Quinn ruled the two-person women's relay race after registering 5:15:42 and beating Katman & Robin of Kathy Ruszala and Robyn Spaeth, who clocked in at 6:24:40.

In the four-person MTB division, Team PIC 2, which had Butch Sublemente and James Abuy as two of its riders, was the first to cross the finish line at the 5:25:46 mark and was followed by 4 The Boyz (5:25:44) and PIC 3 (6:24:06).

Team Haggan (5:20:05) defeated Team DFS (6:43:17) for the four-person mixed team relay, while the two-person men's relay's Top 3 finishers were the Tanapag Boyz (5:44:54), Matt & Winston (5:48:04), and Team Kanoa (6:44:43). Team Fourteen25 was the lone entry in the two-person mixed relay and completed the race in 5:33:51, while Grotto was the four-person mixed team winner, finishing the event in 6:21:03.

Art of War returns this month

Trench Tech promotions will be holding The Art if War 12 on Dec. 30, Saturday, at the Trench Tech Gym at the 2nd Level Mihaville Housing-Sugar King Estates.

The one-day submission and grappling fighting challenge will run from 9am to 4pm. Registration fee is $20.

Trench Tech owner Cuki Alvarez is looking for interested Brazilian Jiu-jitsu practitioners and other grapplers and submission fighters to join the tournament. Those who want to compete could call or text 783-4MMA (4662) and give their name and weight.

Alvarez said that interested grapplers that would want to join AOW 12—brought to you by Trench Tech Purebred Saipan, Monster Energy, Hagu Next, Purebred, IT&E, Hertz, and Mango Resort—should stay tune for more details. They can also visit WWW.TRENCHTECH.TV, facebook.com/trenchtech or IG @IFAMILIAKU_MASS for more information.

In other news, Steve Roberto of Purebred BJJ Guam will be visiting Saipan next weekend and will be on island from Dec. 15 to 17.

Alvarez is inviting TrenchTech gym members to join the three-day training with Roberto as stripe and belt promotions will also take place next week. A $4 drop-in fee will be charged to gi players who are non-members. ***(Jon Perez)***

LAURON

From Page 28

squad to a seven-game winning streak in the elimination. Lauron and his Black Mamba were then ranked third after the regular season as it earned a 7-4 record in the round-robin competition.

Gamboa, on the other hand, top-scored in Batang Bear Brand's 88-69 demolition of the Silencer in their winner-take-all title match last weekend. Gamboa exploded for 33 points, as Batang Bear Brand hardly missed the contribution of Hal Spott with the former stepping up and making rally-halting baskets in the finale.

Both Gamboa and Lauron received trophies and cellular phone presented by Blue Haus' Cecille Camama and IT&E's Rob Harell.

Meanwhile, medals were awarded to Mythical Five members Sean Rabasto of Empe Light, Tropang Ridhors' Ken Viray, White Haus' Jun Tabora, the Silencer's Mike Estores, and Lauron.

Other individual awardees in the league were Sixth Man Joseph Galulu of Team Sawi, Best in Sportsmanship Gino Libuw of Vendetta, and Best Defensive Player Yosh Gabaldon of Black Bamba. In the 3-point shooting category, Batang Bear Brand's Jeff Che and the Gold Ballers Dan Mateo shared the award, while there were also two winners in the most rebounds division—the Silencer's Kelvin Fitial and White Haus' Arjay Nonato.

TEEN

From Page 28

Vietnam was then designated as the neutral host, leaving the Teen Ayuyus with limited time and funds to make new travel arrangements. A neutral venue meant participating teams must pay $25,000 to the host country.

After passing on a chance to square off against Australia, North Korea, and Hong Kong, the Teen Ayuyus will now test their mettle against three tough teams in Hong Kong.

"We will play against Chelsea and Kechee U18, which both have players on the Hong Kong national team. They are also among the top youth clubs in Hong Kong," Mita said.

As for the All Blacks, the Teen Ayuyus coach said the squad is organized by African players, who are either currently playing or had played in Hong Kong professional league

"All games will be very tough so it will be a very good opportunity to expose ourselves to strong teams and show them how we play football," said Mita, who wants to see the Teen Ayuyus be more aggressive on offense in their training matches in Hong Kong.

"We try to build our style of play, which is attacking football. Football's most exciting part is scoring a goal. To score, our team has to possess the ball. We kept training to improve ball possession using the field wide and depths. I want to see how much we can create chances while having possession against strong opponents," the coach added.

The Hong Kong-bound squad is composed of Joshua Abragan, Kirt Andon, Christopher Aninzo, Thaiphi Austria, Louie Calayag, Jonathan Capayas, Joshua De Leon, Euly James Ermitanio, Anthony Fruit, Hark Joshua Galarion, Eun Syu Hahn, Sebastien Manabat, Joshua Mendez, Dai Podziewski, Ryan Relucio, John Michael Rojas, and Sunjoon Tenorio. Ruselle Zapanta is the team manager.

"I'd like to thank Coach Koo and Jimmy for the arrangement in the HK side, my boys and coaching staff for their hard work, and also the clubs, parents, supporters, and NMIFA for helping us get this opportunity. We will do our best to bring best results for our supporters," Mita said.

NMI

From Page 28

to its calendar just months before the Mini Games kicked off, making the competitions the first to have the event in both the men's and women's divisions.

Basa also admitted that they have difficulties scouting their opponents.

"It is hard to find videos of other teams. I tried searching YouTube for at least videos of Samoa, but I didn't find any. Seems that all competing teams have no idea how each of us play. The 3x3 competition would be very interesting," he said.

The team captain is hoping their outside shooting would be consistent to make it easier for Lizama to operate inside the paint.

"The more shots we take, the better chances for us to win. Most likely, teams would field a bigger lineup so we just need to make those outside shots. We only have seven seconds to get a shot. We have to make quick attempts and hopefully we could make those shots. Dan, Doug, and I must make our outside shots. That would allow Jack some space to work inside or we can set up screens for Doug to penetrate," Basa said.

Rangamar, in a separate interview, said he hopes the team's quickness and outside shooting would be enough to score some upsets in the tournament, which will be without Guam.

Basa said they were a bit relieved upon learning that Guam won't be joining the 3x3 competitions.

"Well, that's one powerhouse team down. We know Guam is a strong team since they have been winning tournaments in the region. With them out, it gives us a better chance to hopefully make it to the medal round," Basa said.

11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Two-time Olympian Jamie Wong of Hong Kong goes downhill heading toward the Bird Island Lookout during last Saturday's 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race. Wong failed to finish the race after encountering mechanical problems with her bike.

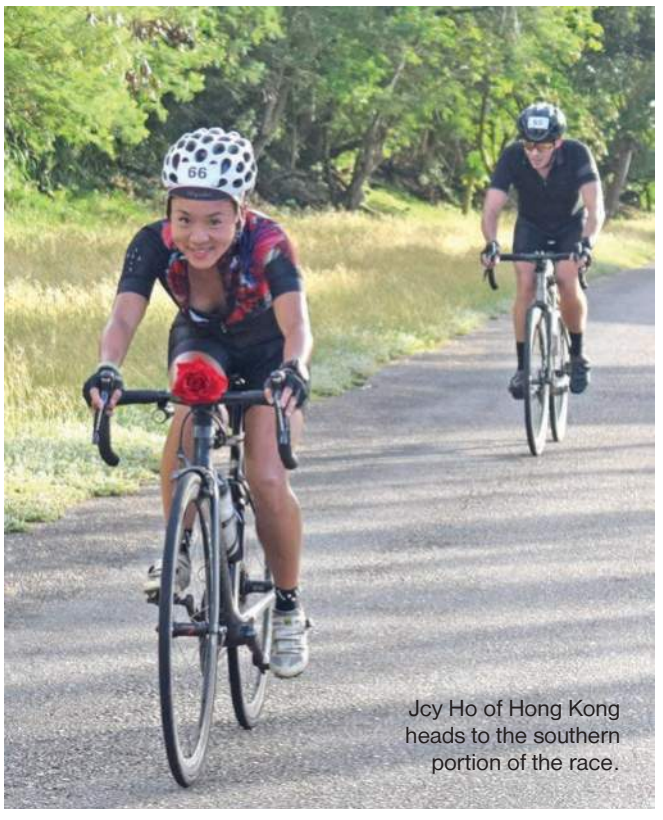
Guam's Kristina Ingvarsson takes a sip after making it to the turnaround point at the Grotto.

The CNMI's Ayano Braxton is a picture of concentration as she climbs out of Grotto.

Glorybel Tan takes her time coasting the course.

The CNMI's Emily Northrop paces herself as she navigates the 115-kilometer course.

A female rider makes the uphill climb.



Jcy Ho of Hong Kong heads to the southern portion of the race.

The CNMI's Kimiko McKagan seems to be enjoying the moment after completing two of the dreaded four corners—the Bird Island Lookout and Grotto.

Westbrook's triple-double leads Thunder past Jazz

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jeter says no decision yet about Stanton

PAGE 25

Team NMI ready for surprises in 3x3

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI men's 3x3 basketball team will try to test if its two-month preparation is enough as it takes on eight other teams in the 10th Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The Commonwealth cagers will leave Saipan today at 6:05pm and are expected to land at the Bauerfield International Airport this weekend or a few days before the Dec. 11 start of the 3x3 games at the Korman Indoor Hall 2. The elimination round will run until Dec. 13 with the finals set for Dec. 14.

Once in Vanuatu, team captain Preston Basa said cohesiveness won't be a problem for them since they have been playing for years with the Ol'Aces. Dan Barcinas, Jack Lizama, and Douglas Schmidt are the other members of the Elias Rangamar-managed squad.

"We already know our strengths and weaknesses so it's easy for us to make adjustments. The only problem that we encountered with our training was our schedules sometimes don't match," Basa told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

Basa works at the Public School System, while Barcinas and Schmidt are employed in private companies, and Lizama's job requires him to be in Guam most of the time.

"Our job schedule had been a problem but we practice consistently as a team if we are all here. We usually practice twice a day. We also do strength and conditioning, it's just a matter of getting in shape," the team captain added.

Basa said they have been practicing plays that they hope would work once they go up against powerhouse teams American Samoa and Papua New Guinea. However, he added that the Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and host Vanuatu should not be taken lightly.

"It will be tough, but we'll see what happens there. We understand what we need to do in order to win and we expect that most of the teams are going to go big in order to control the middle. Competitions will be interesting since 3x3 basketball is new," said Basa.

The International Olympic Committee just included 3x3 basketball to its program this year. The Pacific Games Council then added the sport

See NMI on Page 26

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Dan Barcinas, right, and three other players will leave Saipan today to represent the CNMI in the 3x3 basketball competition of the 10th Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Teen Ayuyus to duel HK teams

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thaiphi Austria, right, seen here battling a Hualien Football Club player for possession during a friendly game on Saipan this year, is part of the CNMI Boys U18 National Team that will head to Hong Kong this weekend for a training camp.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three matches against highly competitive squads await the CNMI Boys U18 National Team as it heads to Hong Kong this weekend for a five-day training camp.

"This training camp is very important for us to prove our current level and improvement and build confidence," Teen Ayuyus coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Tuesday.

The 18-player squad will leave for Hong Kong this Sunday for the training camp that will run until Dec. 14. In the former British colony, the Teen Ayuyus will be playing against Chelsea FC HK U18 and Kechee Soccer Club U18, and the All Blacks.

The training camp was arranged through Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) technical director Luam Khen Koo and coach Jacky Lee after NMIFA president Jerry Tan vowed to look for other opportunities for the Teen Ayuyus who missed last month's AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers.

"The boys have been practicing hard for the AFC tournament since last year. Unfortunately, we couldn't participate. However, the boys stayed positive, looking to new vision which is the Marianas Cup 2018," Mita said.

The Teen Ayuyus were supposed to play against Australia, North Korea, and Hong Kong in the AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8, but decided to withdraw from the qualifier after a venue change about three weeks before the competition kicks off. Australia was the original host country, but had to drop out of its hosting duties due to travel issues against North Korea.

See TEEN on Page 26

Lauron, Gamboa take MVP honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Black Mamba's Alex Lauron and Batang Bear Brand's Ron Gamboa won the most coveted individual award in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League.

Lauron was named the regular season most valuable player, while Gamboa took the Finals MVP title during the awards ceremony for the IT&E-sponsored league last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Black Mamba forward averaged in double figures in scoring, leading his

See LAURON on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Finals MVP Ron Gamboa of Batang Bear Brand, second left, is surrounded by the Silencer defenders during the third quarter of their title game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.